THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales · Charity number 1107136

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05233566
Registered	2004-12-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Soanes Centre Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Phone	02089831277
Email	contact@fothcp.org
Website	http://www.fothcp.org/

Activities

Objects: TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE LANDSCAPE OF THE TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK AND ACKROYD DRIVE GREENLINK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (THE "CEMETERY PARK") INCLUDING ITS MONUMENTS AND BIODIVERSITY AS A PLACE OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE AND NATURE RESERVE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN PARTICULAR PEOPLE LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN TOWER HAMLETS THROUGH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY THE CHARITY, AND BY PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS WHOSE AIMS ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

Activities: To protect, preserve and care for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink as a LNR and Metropolitan SINC within East London. To celebrate and share the unique benefits of this space - ecology, heritage, community - with all in the local area and beyond.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK.
- Tower Hamlets

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£211,747	£264,491	-	-
2024-03-31	£606,522	£198,125	£691,025	5
2023-03-31	£302,647	£229,574	-	-
2022-03-31	£212,177	£199,837	-	-
2021-03-31	£238,794	£189,511	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Louise Robinson	Chair	2021-09-30
Andrew Moffatt		2023-09-21
DEBORAH COLVIN		2023-09-21
Jasmina Negrini		2021-09-30
Stavros Fotiadis		2023-09-21

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THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1107136

Accounts

Friends of
Tower Hamlets
Cemetery Park

Conservation • Heritage • Community

Registered Charity: 110716



Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

www.fothcp.org

Registered Charity No. 1107136 | Registered Company No : 5233566

This document was produced with contributions from the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) Chairperson and the Board of Trustees; Staff; Terry Lyle (Honorary Trustee); Edward Milner and Mark Patterson.

Photographs of the Cemetery Park are credited to @ifoundtheme, @sharons_eastend.walks, Aneeta Patel, Claire Davis, @gem_in_the_wild, Jackie Osborne, Jasmina Negrini, Ken Greenway, Mark Engel, Ruben Darrell, Stavros Fotiadis, Suzi Brent.

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Green Flag 2024-2025:
Community Winner - retained since 2011

London in Bloom 2024:
Large Conservation (Gold)
Large Cemetery/ Crematorium (Gold + Category Winner)
Heritage Park/Garden of the Year (Gold)

Tower Hamlets in Bloom 2024:
2 Awards for contribution to London in Bloom and Recognition of Excellence Award given to Kenneth Greenway

ABOUT US

Conservation | Heritage | Community

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London garden cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink. Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.

The Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. It is a unique site for transformation: a people's cemetery; a sanctuary for humans as well as nature; a place for festivals, forest schools and field studies. It changes with the seasons and the passing of time, but will always remain rooted in the history of the people of the East End and a place of rich heritage.

The FoTHCP was established in 1990, and ever since our passionate trustees, staff and volunteers have shared their energy, expert knowledge and vision to shape the future of the Cemetery Park for the benefit of all who use and enjoy it.

We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, and maintain and develop the site for enjoyment, remembrance and learning.

We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement with nature and understanding of its local history; support physical and mental health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion.

Each year we provide hundreds of events, workshops and activities, including volunteer opportunities, for the benefit of the local community, many of which are free or subsidised.







UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The annual report is an opportunity for our charity to reflect on our progress and consider our future. This year is even more special as the Friends mark 35 years since our formation - which has given us three and a half decades to reflect upon and celebrate.

From forging new ground as a 'cemetery-park' with its delicate balance of conservation and heritage, to being recognised as a designated Local Nature Reserve and Metropolitan SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation - which affords the space vital additional protections), and to our extensive community activities and events, we are proud to say that our commitment to Conservation, Heritage and Community is as strong as ever.

We are grateful to the efforts of our staff, volunteers, members and supporters. We all share collective success and accomplishments - not least as we recognise that our sensitive, hands-on approach means we rely upon so many hands!

Two of these recognitions include retaining the Green Flag Award for the 13th year, with the official comments from the judges being particularly inspirational.

We also retained a number of recognitions at Tower Hamlets and London in Bloom, including Gold Awards in the following categories:

- Large Conservation
- Large Cemetery/Crematorium
- Heritage Park/Garden of the Year

The fact that we capture recognition across so many different lines is testament to our unique value and strong grounding for our future.

In our 'Strategy and Looking Ahead' section we document the ways in which we continue to evolve our approaches towards realising our goals. We are as ambitious with these aspirations as we are passionate about the Cemetery Park; and recognise the legacy we must preserve, that we have the support and expertise to deliver.

We hope you're as excited as we are for what comes next!

The Board of Trustees











CHAIR'S REPORT

I have the honour of being the Chair of Trustees during the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park's 35th year of operations. There is a very strong and rich history inherent within any Magnificent Seven Victorian-era cemetery, alongside the truly unique biodiversity and natural value within Tower Hamlets' Local Nature Reserve and Metropolitan SINC. In our 35th year, we have been reflecting on the role of active management within the space.

The Green Flag award panel summed up our mission, purpose and impact quite succinctly:

"The Local Nature Reserve is extremely well run and has achieved a great deal since the FoTHCP was established in 1990. Much of the restoration of the historic landscape and funeral structures has been planned and is taking place on a gradual basis, as funds permit. This damage dates largely from the period of neglect before the FoTHCP took over responsibility.

The work on biodiversity similarly is excellent but has to manage the long period when trees self-seeded within the cemetery; these mainly being sycamores, which are of limited biodiversity value intrinsically and which cast a heavy shadow inhibiting the ground flora and shrubs. These are being steadily removed with great advantage to the overall biodiversity.

The Trustees, staff and volunteers are all to be commended for the excellent work that has been done and the proposed plans to extend the LNR area and further develop the historic and biodiversity potential."

FoTHCP is a truly special place—a nature reserve, a historic cemetery, and a public park for the community - all within one site. As we celebrate our 35th year, we're proud of our accomplishments, but we're also focused on identifying and addressing the pressures the third sector faces, as well as the additional and unique challenges we see given our history and heritage.

Perhaps most visible is the Bow Gasworks development on the southern edge of the Cemetery Park, and its impact on conservation and nature efforts. To prepare for increased visitors, we're developing environmental mitigation plans to protect biodiversity and accommodate more foot traffic. These plans are part of our larger Conservation Management Plan, which balances nature, heritage, and community into the future.

Protecting our heritage remains a priority. We've made essential monument repairs and strategic progress, with a big thanks to our dedicated volunteers who support our staff by handling family heritage research and grave enquiries.

As a public park, we are committed to providing a safe and welcoming space. We are exploring new ways to engage visitors, from creating trails to piloting new events. The site is a valuable and welcoming environment for many community groups and partners.

Our own events and activities attract thousands of visitors, and we've expanded our team and facilities—including The Lodge and Yard—to meet the growing demand alongside our outdoor venues and the Soanes Field Centre. This growth also allows us to offer more employment and work placement opportunities.

Finally, we are focused on our organisational resilience. While our Service Level Agreement funding has remained unchanged for years, and the wider economic climate for grants is challenging, we are prudently managing our finances. We have established reserves, built through the support of our community and corporate partners, to withstand financial adversity. We are also actively working to build and retain income streams to support our ongoing activities and the next chapter for this much-loved site.



Louise Robinson
Chair of the Board of Trustees



MANAGER'S REPORT

The year began with a guided tour of THCP for the staff and volunteers of Willesden Jewish Cemetery — an enjoyable time of exchanging stories and sharing experiences. In mid April, Diane, one of our dedicated heritage volunteers, and I gave a joint talk at the Ragged School Museum about the children of Barnardo's buried at the Cemetery Park. It was a full house, our talk was warmly received, and it was a pleasure to see the newly renovated museum in all its glory.

Much like the previous year, April to October saw a healthy number of volunteers visiting us. Due to the existing biodiversity in the Cemetery Park, and in an effort to create more of this, the work and interventions made in the park by the Friends are very targeted and manual, and require a large number of individuals' work, which we achieve through the volunteers from organisations and charities that we welcome to the Park.

At the start of the reporting period, we welcomed Jamie as our new Heritage Officer, alongside two brand-new roles. Oana joined as our Seasonal Ranger, and Aneeta as our Office Administrator. All three started after Easter, and it has been a joy to support them as they've settled into their roles and contributed meaningfully to the work of the FoTHCP.

Our events programme continued to thrive. Foraging tours, forest school sessions, and themed heritage walks and activities remained popular. Our regular Tuesday volunteers also benefited from Bumblebee ID training, delivered as part of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust's Buzzing in the East End project.

In July, the staff team and several volunteers visited Brompton Cemetery, where we were warmly welcomed by their team and given a highly informative tour. The visit was rounded off in the best way: with tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits, and even a gift of Brompton Cemetery honey.

August saw the return of our much-loved Summer Fair. It was a fantastic day, attended by several hundred local residents who enjoyed free activities, Cemetery Park tours, local craft stalls, and performances from the East London Music Hall Choir. We were thrilled to be able to showcase our work to the community in such a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

In February, students from Capel Manor College joined us for work experience as part of their Nature Conservation course. We continue to be proud of our support for a wide range of educational initiatives, offering a unique outdoor learning environment.

We maintained our partnership with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Virtual School Programme, delivering forest school activities to children in the foster care system. I also continued to work closely with students from Phoenix Autism College, who visit weekly during term time to take part in seasonal nature conservation work.

In October, we said a fond farewell to Richard, our Senior Cemetery Park Officer, who left to take up an exciting new role with the Royal Parks at Kensington Gardens and Brompton Cemetery. Richard had a significant impact during his time with us, and we're hugely grateful for all he did. We wish him every success in his new role.

A few other highlights from the year include our participation in Heritage Open Days, Open House London, and London Month of the Dead. We also welcomed judges for the Green Flag Award and entries for both London and Britain in Bloom. Throughout the year, we were supported by volunteers from Good Gym, who helped with various tasks. We were also proud to host the intimate launch of Queer as Folklore, a book by Sacha Coward, who, alongside Sheldon from Cemetery Club, leads our October heritage tours.

Towards the end of the year, Stephen (a regular volunteer) and I visited East Ham Nature Reserve to deliver training on laying crushed concrete paths to their staff and volunteers, a lovely example of skills-sharing across green spaces.

2025 marks the 35th anniversary of the FoTHCP. I'm very excited to be sharing our plans to celebrate this significant milestone.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues, our Trustees, and all our volunteers and supporters. Your time, energy, and commitment are deeply appreciated. We simply couldn't do this without you. Thank you.



Kenneth Greenway
Cemetery Park Manager

OUR MISSION

Conservation. Heritage. Community.

We work to manage our woodlands and meadows for the benefit of all. We explore and celebrate our history and heritage. As a people-centric charity, we provide opportunities for learning, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing, and fun.

OUR VALUES

Freedom

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

Growth

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

Openness

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.

Friendship

We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.









STRATEGIC REPORTS





BIODIVERSITY

Highlights for 2024-2025

As a site which embraces nature, we are especially welcoming to non-human visitors and residents! Many human visitors are thrilled when they spot a hedgehog bumbling across a path, or a pipistrelle bat flipping around at dusk, and many school groups enjoy dipping in the ponds or exploring the meadows.

With support from volunteers and experts, we participate in numerous surveys and studies to monitor and develop the habitats to best protect and encourage various species - some of which are summarised here.

Butterflies

Two of the butterflies we have that are notable for inner London were recorded again in 2024. One was the Green Hairstreak, first recorded in 2023. Still only in small numbers, but we hope to improve that by increasing the plants on which the caterpillars feed or the adults take nectar from. In August 2024 we recorded Britain's smallest butterfly, the Small Blue, again, after a gap of a few years. It must have been present all along, but it's very elusive. To keep it, we need to sustain the populations of Kidney Vetch, a plant crowded out by strong grass growth. The plant is absolutely essential to the caterpillars, as the flowers and developing seeds of Kidney Vetch are their only food.

Some of our day-flying moths are as colourful as any butterfly. One that people will have seen during July and August is the Jersey Tiger. Tiger moths are very brightly coloured, warning that they are bad to eat. 30 or 50 years ago Jersey Tigers, though common in the Channel Islands, were, in England, only found along part of the South Devon coast. They're now common in southern England. Very dark brown forewings, with bold yellow stripes. They fly by day and night. They often fly across an open area and land on a tree or shrub leaf, or on flowers. Buddleia and Hemp Agrimony are favourites. When they fly off they reveal their brilliant underwings, which are either orange-red or yellow.

We don't need to take any special measures for the Jersey Tiger. Its caterpillars will eat many low-growing plants. Evergreen Alkanet, a very prolific plant in the woods, is often used. The hairy caterpillars feed at night but can be found in May by looking for plants with leaves much eaten. The caterpillars will be on the ground under the plant during the day.

Bees

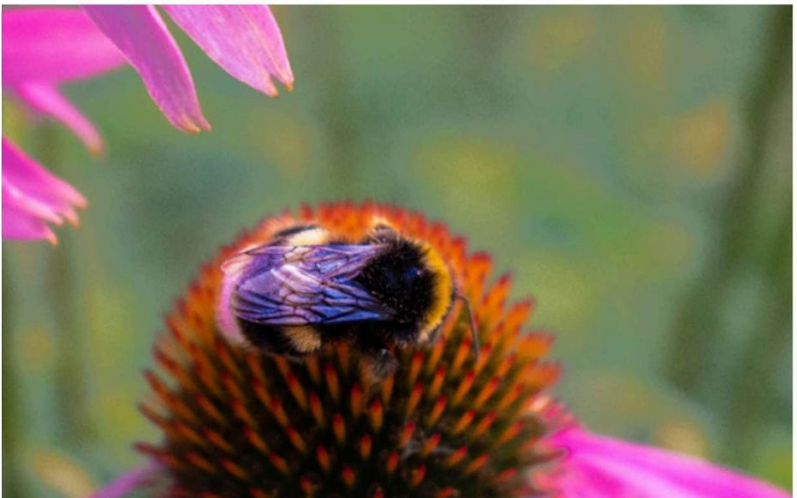
2024 was a challenging year for bees across the UK, and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park was no exception. Prolonged overcast conditions, below-average sunlight, and an unusually cool, wet spring created tough circumstances for pollinators.

The damp spring caused high mortality among bumblebee queens, while many solitary bees, which typically emerge in large numbers, appeared only sporadically. Traditional nesting aggregations were much quieter than usual, although their Cuckoo Bee counterparts remained relatively abundant.

Tree Bumblebees and Red-Tailed Bumblebees suffered significant declines, with numbers at their lowest levels ever recorded in the Cemetery Park.

Nationally, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust reported a dramatic 74% fall in Red-Tailed Bumblebee populations. Sadly, the Brown-Banded Carder Bee—a species previously recorded at the Cemetery Park—was not seen at all in 2024.

Another disappointment was the absence of Hoplitis adunca (the Viper's Bugloss Bee), a species newly arrived in Britain and first recorded in the Cemetery Park in 2023.



Amid these challenges, there were glimmers of hope. In July, we recorded six female and one male Large Scabious Mining Bees—a promising sign after very few were seen in 2023 and none at all in 2022. One female was observed using newly created habitat on the Cemetery Park's south side, where Sycamores had been removed as part of mitigation works for the Bow Gasworks development.

We hope this improved habitat will attract more individuals in the years to come. Despite the difficult year, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park remains an important urban refuge for pollinators.

To date, around 75 bee species have been recorded in the Cemetery Park—a testament to its biodiversity value.

Report by Mark Patterson: Api:Cultural



Spiders

In the 12 months Jan 2024 to Jan 2025 a total of 2182 spiders were trapped at the six permanent stations in the Park. This is slightly higher than last year (2049) but still far below the mean total for the last 15 years (3056). Species richness was virtually the same at 60 as against 61 for 2023, and a little below the mean of 64.

Three new species were found; the first being a widespread and fairly common wolf spider Piratula uliginosa (Lycosidae) and two tiny spiders : Savignia frontata (Linyphiidae) is regarded as a common pioneer species and has been recorded from at least 30 sites in the whole London area. The second is much more interesting spider, the tiny Theonoe minutissima (Theridiidae), at 1.1mm one of the smallest British spiders. Although a specimen was found in 2023 identification was not confirmed in time for last year's report. It had not previously been recorded from the whole London area, although it has been recorded widely across the whole country as far as the north coast of Scotland.

The previous report underestimated the total number of species from the Cemetery Park. According to my records now we have a total of 183 spider species actually recorded up to the end of 2024, plus ten species of centipede (Chilopda) and three species of Pseudoscorpion. As indicated in my report last year there may be two Micaria species previously reported as M.pulicaria. Since the separation of M. pulicaria and M. micans all specimens found have been confirmed as M. micans so until a genuine M. pulicaria is found Micaria only counts as one.

The spider fauna in the Park as a whole had clearly not recovered from the very poor year 2023, although I'm pleased to report that both total numbers and species richness seem to have bounced back in 2025.

Perhaps with climate change we should get used to not only increased atmospheric turbulence, but instabilities in populations of wild organisms like spiders as well.
As regards the composition of the spider community, the most abundant species (Pachygnatha degeeri) has recovered somewhat from low numbers in the last two years when it was below 20% of the catch, to make up 37% (807) in 2024. At the same time numbers of the major disturbed-ground species (Erigone dentipalpis) also remain alarmingly high (138) at all sites and still far above the mean.

Researchers at University of Aachen (Bach, A. et al) have been using pitfalls to assess the recovery of biodiversity in urban grasslands in Germany with studies that can be compared with these here. They conclude that the total number of wolf spiders (Lycosidae) as a proportion of the April-October catch is a 'striking parameter' in evaluating the biodiversity, and hence conservation value of individual grassland sites. Here at the Cemetery Park Lycosid numbers April-October in 2024 (458: 22.5% of the total) were well below the 50% mean for a healthy biodiverse urban grassland. Bach et al suggest a 'threshold value' of wolf spiders should be of 50% of the total summer catch for a positive evaluation of a site.

Taking the centre of Scrapyard Meadow as possibly our best site, wolf spiders have reached 50% of the total summer catch on two occasions: in 2011 and 2020, but generally the catch is well below that target figure.

Edward Milner 1/8/2025.

Reference: Bach, A. et al. 2025. From lawns to meadows: spiders (Arachnida:Araneae) as indicators to measure urban grassland restoration success. Urban ecosystems https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-024-01626-x



CONSERVATION

Managing Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park: Why Tree Felling is Sometimes Necessary. Bow Common Gasworks development – our mitigation work thus far!

Who manages THCP?
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is managed by the *Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park*, a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Founded in 1990, the Friends have formally cared for the site under a Service Level Agreement with Tower Hamlets Council (LBTH) since 2004. In 2021, LBTH granted the Friends a 30-year lease, cementing our long-term role in looking after this special place.

Why are some trees being felled?
Tree felling is linked to the impact of the new Bow Common Lane Gasworks development. This major housing project—set to include 14 towers of up to 21 storeys—will introduce around 1,500 new homes and approximately 3,000 residents. The resulting increase in footfall will place more pressure on the Cemetery Park, especially on its paths and sensitive habitats.

Of particular concern is the Scrapyard Meadow, a sunlit grassland alongside Cantrell Road that supports butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. The new buildings will cast significant shade over this area, making it less suitable for the species that depend on warmth and sunlight.

To help offset this loss, LBTH has provided the Friends with ring-fenced funding specifically for habitat mitigation. One of the most effective actions we can take is to increase sunlight in other parts of the Park—especially in the old, wooded areas—by removing some trees.

Why remove Sycamores?
The focus is on felling Sycamore trees, which are not native, were not planted, and have self-seeded extensively. Compared to native species like Oak, Elm, Ash, and Birch, Sycamores support far fewer wildlife species. When dense, their large summer canopies block light from reaching the woodland floor—negatively affecting wildflowers, insects, and even young trees.
Traditional woodland management once kept woods more open and sun-dappled, but that has largely disappeared in the last 70 years. As a result, many of the species that rely on partial sunlight have declined. For instance, butterflies cluster in the brighter areas, and woodland wildflowers like Primroses disappear in too much shade—but can reappear when light returns.

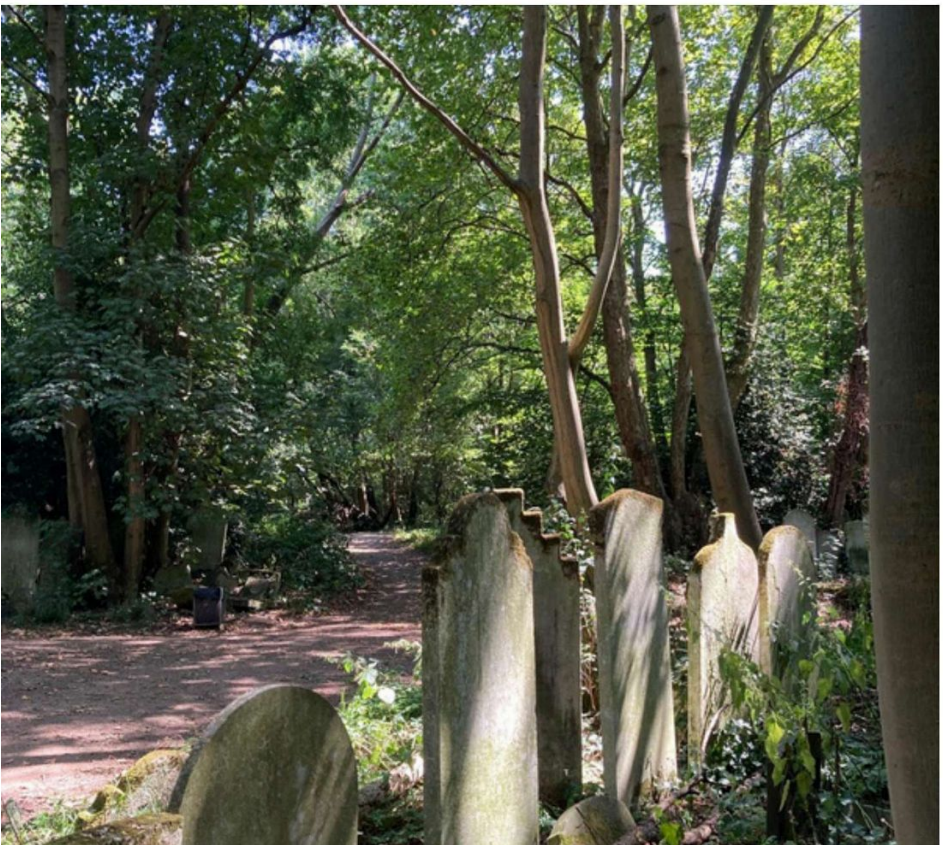
What's happened so far?
During winter 2024, 47 trees were selectively removed—40 Sycamores & 7 Grey Poplars and in winter 2025 47 Sycamores were felled — as the first steps in a 7-year woodland management programme up to 2030. This work is designed to:

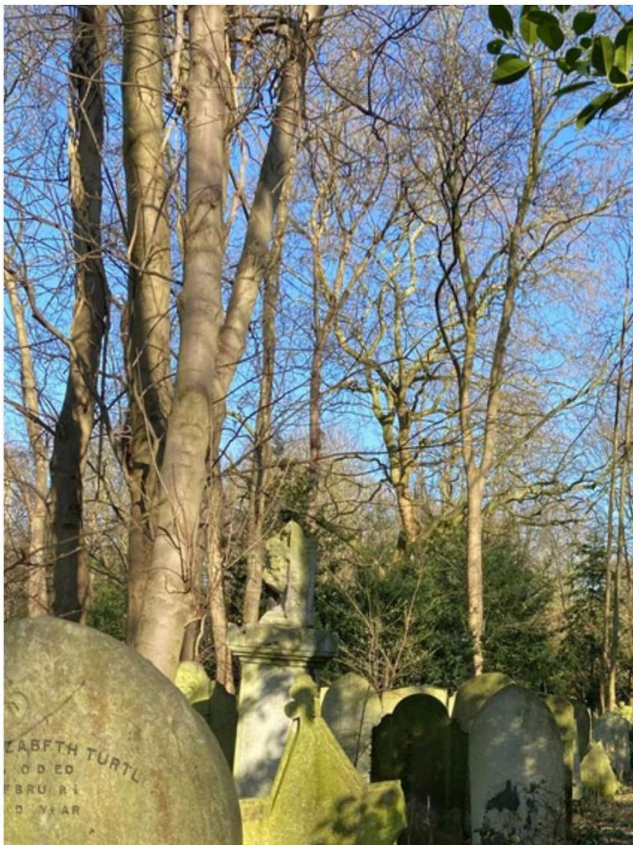
- Extend existing sunlit areas
- Improve light levels along paths
- Protect monuments from storm-damaged trees
- Create canopy gaps to support understorey regeneration
- Establish a more sustainable "coppice with standards" woodland structure

How are decisions made?
All proposed tree works are carefully planned and reviewed in consultation with LBTH Tree and Biodiversity Officers. They also align with our 30-Year Conservation Management Plan and 5-Year Management Plan, which has been in place since 2012 and is updated regularly.

In summary
The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park work to balance the needs of wildlife and visitors. Sometimes, that means removing trees to support long-term biodiversity and woodland health. Tree felling, when done thoughtfully and selectively, is a vital part of good woodland management—and key to ensuring that nature continues to thrive in this treasured urban space.

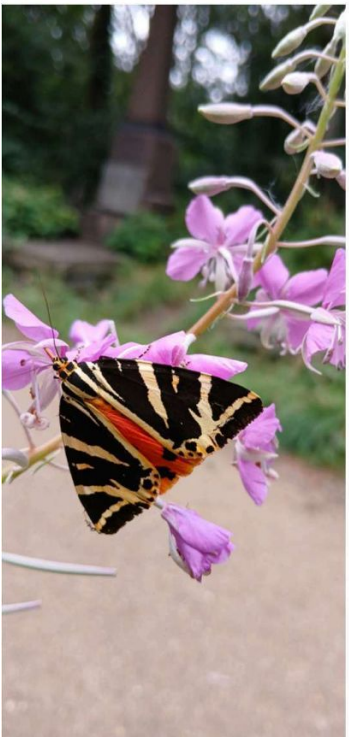
Kenneth Greenway
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Manager











Bow Common Lane Gasworks Development

We received from the developers of the Bow Common Lane Gasworks site for high rise housing, via LBTH, adjudication and monitoring ("Section 106") money. This money, to be spent over a period of up to 12 years, is intended to enable the Friends to compensate for the effects of the development on the Cemetery Park. The main effects are increased shading on adjoining Scrapyard Meadow, from the tall buildings, and generally increased pressures on the Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, from use by the eventual 3,000 new residents. We can't use the money for general expenditure and staffing costs and need to account for our use of it to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Planning Department.

The increased shading of Scrapyard Meadow reduces the potential it has as a habitat for sun-demanding plants and insects. We are countering that with increasing light levels in parts of the historic cemetery. During the year, we saw the benefits of Sycamore felling work done in the winter of 2023-2024. More of this work was done in winter 2024-2025. All the work has been planned in consultation with LBTH Tree Officers.

Fairfoot Wood

Fairfoot Wood is owned by Tower Hamlets Council. We completed a project back in 2023/24 to improve the space as an accessible place for wildlife and people.

In late 2024 we were part of a successful grant application by Poplar Harca to The Mayor's Rewild London scheme. We were commissioned to undertake work on Fairfoot Wood as part of three sites their funding covered. This was part of a wider initiative of Poplar Harca called The Great Green Estate. We were invited to deliver biodiversity enhancements and community engagement.

This mainly involved:

Late 2024 activity:

- Tree felling
- Cutting meadows and spring bulb planting

In the new year 2025:

- Tree planting
- Wildflower Plug planting
- Engagement activities - tree/plug planting, walks.

Woodlands

British woodlands have been in overall biodiversity loss since about 1950, because they have generally grown darker since traditional uses of timber trees and coppice products, which formerly kept woodlands relatively open, have declined. Along the main path between Southern Grove and Knapp Road, the area called Memorial Glade (because the War Memorial and the Church of England chapel were formerly there), is now much more open and sunny, and the wildflowers and insects are already responding, following removal of some Sycamores in winter 2023-2024.

In winter 2024-2025, Sycamores were removed from both sides of the main path between Memorial Glade and Knapp Road, which has produced a much better lit “corridor” for insects to move through and for a greater diversity of wildflowers.

Over the years, our other main habitat, our meadows, has declined a little in its diversity and abundance of wildflowers and insects as, especially during the pandemic when we were less able to work with volunteers, we had to reduce the care of our meadows. We have been able to step up our activity and plan to use S106 money to get more effective grass cutting machinery, and more wildflower plants and seeds. While of course, cutting meadows too much impoverishes them, they need sufficient cutting, and clearing of the cut material to prevent them growing more fertile each year. Increasing fertility means many wildflower species become outcompeted by tall grasses.

The decrease of particular species of plant has resulted in the reduction, or complete loss of insect species dependent on them. If fertility can be reduced, many of the wildflower species that have been reduced, or lost altogether, will come back, as their seeds are lying dormant in the soil and will grow if conditions become suitable again.





HERITAGE

This year, we continued to deliver projects identified within our Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which was determined in October 2022.

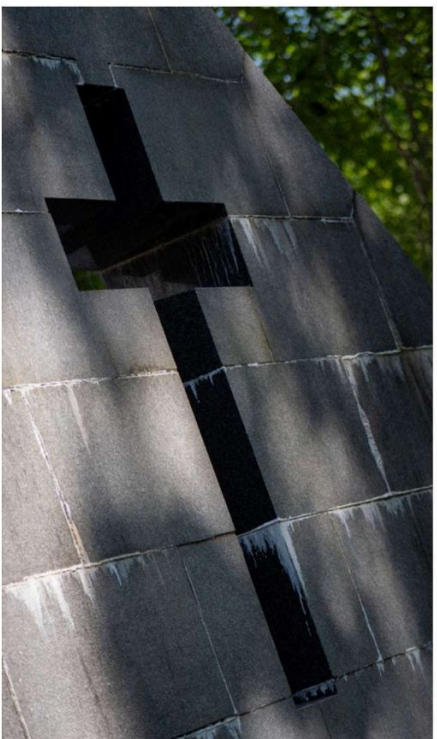
Throughout the year, the Heritage group has continued to meet on the second Sunday of each month in collaboration with the East London History Society.

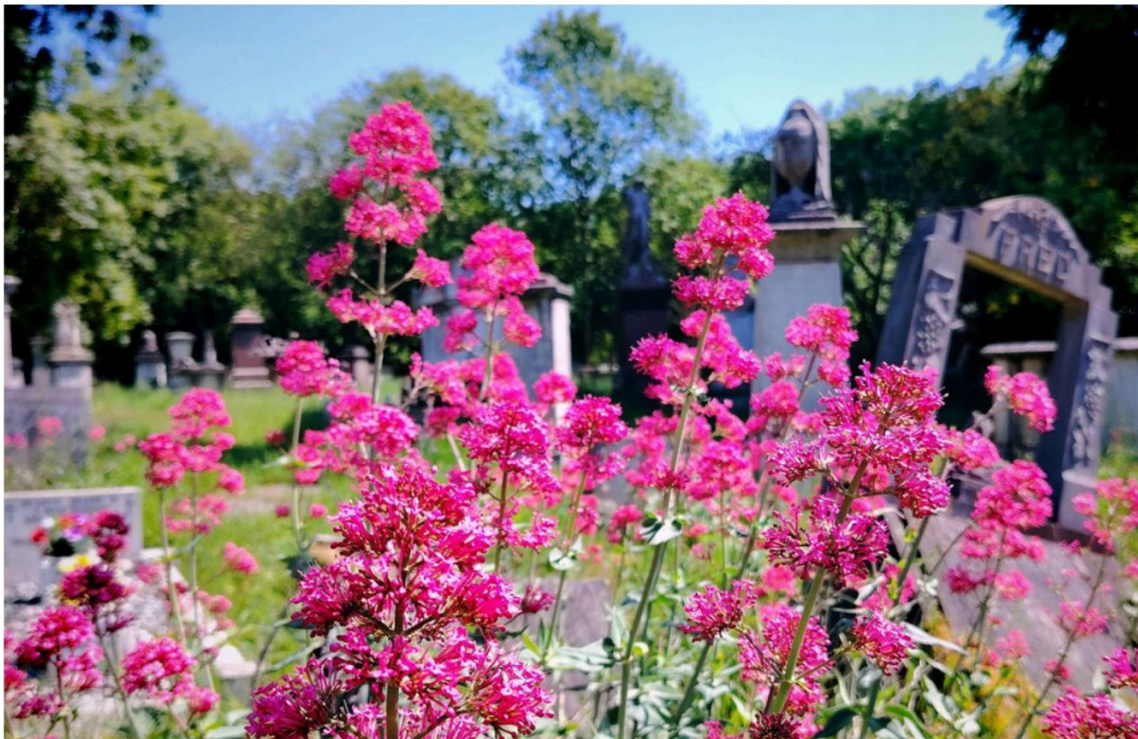
Following two extremely large-scale projects in recent years, remembering the 500+ Barnardo children buried in THCP, and Hidden Histories documenting the lives and families of the 204 WW1 service personnel buried in THCP and commemorated on the screen wall, the Heritage group are now in the process of researching the Princess Alice disaster.

This upcoming project involves investigating various individuals in preparation for publishing a series of booklets on different themes. Additionally, the group continues to record memorial inscriptions, assist with cemetery inquiries, and conduct family research.

Diane Kendall







COMMUNITY

Celebrating Our Community and Green Space

Climate change and the changes created by the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted more than ever the vital role that green spaces play in people's lives. Since then, we have continued to welcome significantly more visitors, and even with many people returning to workplaces in 2023/24, footfall at the Cemetery Park has remained strong.

Individuals, families, and friendship groups come here daily to enjoy a peaceful walk, a quiet lunch break, or simply time outdoors. Many visitors also use the Park as a place for reflection, with local residents and those travelling from further afield sharing their family stories and heritage connections with us. These personal accounts remind us how deeply valued the Cemetery Park is across generations and communities.

Our foremost responsibility is to keep the Park open, safe, and accessible for all. Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we are able to uphold this commitment while also celebrating the unique character of the Park through a vibrant programme of events and activities—many of which are free or subsidised thanks to our generous funders.

Our events reflect the breadth of our work in conservation, heritage, and community engagement. They provide opportunities for people to learn new skills, try hands-on activities, connect with others, and experience the Cemetery Park in new ways. We continue to build on the success of events piloted in previous years, including those centred on arts, crafts, traditional skills, and wellbeing, and have continued to grow and diversify our programme. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are proud to see new audiences discovering the Park through these initiatives.





Diversity, inclusion, and accessibility remain at the heart of everything we do. In 2024/25, we introduced a New Parents Walk initiative, offering parents with pre-school children the chance to connect with others, discover the nature and heritage of the Cemetery Park, and feel part of our community.

Building on its success, we are committed to growing and developing this work as part of our Conservation Management Plan, ensuring that accessibility—both physical and digital—continues to guide our future.



Your Feedback

"I thought Ken was a brilliant guide for the walk. He has so much enthusiasm and knowledge all delivered them both with lightness and humour. I had a very enjoyable afternoon."

"Thank you Ken, it's such a treat to be involved in something so special and rewarding in my local community. Everything was great - clear instructions, friendly atmosphere, and a lovely bunch."

"Thank you for offering these events; an invaluable resource for the local community. I love that this is on my doorstep!"

"Terry was such a fascinating chap, so totally passionate about nature and the cemetery park. It was a real pleasure attending his walk. I'd love to hear him do a talk one evening, showing images of the butterflies and other insects, perhaps over coffee and biscuits. Thank you."

"Keep on protecting and supporting genuine biodiversity - and all the joys and benefits it can bring. It's hard to find in big cities and THCP is a rare gem."

"Ruben was absolutely lovely and really engaging! We loved all his facts and they really made the day fly by."

Selected quotes are from event participants who were invited to complete a post-event feedback form as part of ongoing evaluation and monitoring.






Events and Activities

We hosted a diverse range of events and activities, both directly and through a number of partners and subject-matter experts. Events are advertised on our website, social media and on-site within the Park's notice boards.

In 2024-2025 we had a full programme of events that encompassed the huge variety of unique interests of our community here in the Cemetery Park.

We had our ever popular nature events including expert-led walks about bees, butterflies, bats and more. Our versatile staff team led craft and family activities such as weaving, pottery and knitting.

To mark Remembrance Day, we the Friends welcomed over 60 people to our Remembrance Day service. We were joined by park users, volunteers, 23rd Poplar Scouts, the local police and Raph, a Humanist UK celebrant, to remember those lost, both military and civilian, in conflicts over the years. It was a moving service, with an intent to be inclusive to all in our community and around the world. Thank you to Raph for his considered words in the service, and the members of 23rd Poplar Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who gave the readings.

We were delighted to introduce new events including our Online Grave Workshop led by our Heritage Officer, and the first in an ongoing series of well-being events for families, a New Parents Nature Walk.



Volunteers

As a small organisation, we simply could not survive without the efforts of our volunteers. We hosted over 70 community volunteering sessions during the 2024-2025 year. We are pleased to celebrate the 3,000+ volunteers who join us each year.

From supporting park maintenance and litter picking, to seasonal planting and clearing, and from heritage grave enquiries to nature monitoring, with everything else in between, we are greatly appreciative of all these efforts.

We are also eager to ensure that volunteers can learn new skills and benefit from an increased sense of community when they are on site, and continue to improve opportunities here.

Group & Corporate Volunteering

Looking after the Cemetery Park is a big task. Balancing the care of delicate habitats with the protection of historic monuments takes many hands, and we are lucky to have the support of groups and companies who roll up their sleeves alongside us.

This year we saw that support grow. Between April 2024 and March 2025, we welcomed 81 teams from 63 organisations, together giving 1,910 volunteer days of their time. Some days saw huge teams of up to 100 people working together, transforming areas of the Park in just a few hours.

What makes this even more special is how many groups come back year after year. Their commitment means our small staff team can take on projects that would otherwise be impossible—whether that's laying new paths so visitors can explore more easily, weaving dead hedges to protect new wildflower meadows, or planting bulbs and trees that will bloom for years to come.

For us, corporate volunteering is about more than just the work achieved on the day. It creates a lasting connection between people and the Cemetery Park, builds pride in what they've helped to conserve, and provides vital income that keeps our charity strong. We are hugely grateful to every team that joined us this year—their energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to get muddy make a real and lasting difference.

Members

In this financial year, responding to feedback from our members, we have successfully implemented a new membership system for the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

In the previous system, membership expired every year, and this led to an attrition rate in our membership, and extra work for members to keep in touch with us. In the new system, membership is applied for once, and continues rolling over every year, so that members don't need to reapply annually. One off Lifetime Membership is also available.

Our Members receive free entry to a number of events a year, receive two copies of our publication Stone Stories, and are invited to participate in our AGM.

We are happy to say that prices for membership remain the same, and we are committed to being inclusive for those who need help signing up or with membership fees.
We've had excellent response to this new system, and expect it to run efficiently once the old memberships complete the transition in the next few months.

Our Memberships:

- Adult – 1 person (£15 per year)
- Joint – 2 people at 1 address (£20 per year)
- Household – more than 2 people at 1 address (£30 per year)
- Junior – under 15 years old (£8 per year)
- Concession – 1 person (£10 per year)
- Life Membership – 1 person (£150)

Members' Mondays:

We have several events a year that are free to our Members. These include:

- Spring Bulb Walks
- Heritage Tours
- Nature Walks
- Foraging Walk
- Guided Bat Walk
- Festive Social!

We remain grateful to all members, past, present and future, with 382 members at the time of publishing this annual report.

Donors and Fundraising

At the heart of everything we do at The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a community of supporters who believe in protecting green spaces, preserving heritage, and nurturing biodiversity in the city. Our donors and funders are essential to this mission.

Every donation—whether large or small—helps us to keep Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park open, accessible, and flourishing. From funding tools and materials for conservation work, to enabling education sessions for local schools, to supporting our volunteers and maintaining vital habitats for wildlife, fundraising underpins it all.

In a time of increasing pressure on public funding and urban nature, the generosity of our supporters ensures we can respond to challenges and seize opportunities. It allows us to invest in the long-term care of this unique space, and to grow the impact of our work across heritage, environment, and wellbeing.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to our work this year—individual donors, charitable trusts, corporate partners, and community fundraisers. Your support is not just financial; it is a powerful act of belief in what this place means to people, and what it can be for future generations.

Thank you for helping us make Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park a space for nature, for people, and for heritage.





STRATEGY AND LOOKING AHEAD

We reported in the prior Annual Report that we had finalised our first Conservation Management Plan. This large and extensive project enables us to better understand the rich assets - physical and cultural - and to evaluate and prepare for opportunities within the Cemetery Park. The CMP also provides a strong framework to build on nature and heritage together - both so vital to the space and each with strong benefits to the community.

In 2024-2025, we have prioritised making our organisation ready to deliver on the CMP. This includes making our organisation more robust: adding expertise and experience to our Board of Trustees; developing working project groups across key areas of focus; delivering training to staff and adding new staff roles.

Ongoing Activities

- Maintenance/groundskeeping in the historic Cemetery site and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, in line with the LBTH Service Level Agreement.
- Encouraging and nurturing environments that support biodiversity across flora and fauna, and documenting these populations.
- Managing the site in a way that is sensitive to its roots as Victorian-era cemetery and space for remembrance and reflection.
- Developing/enhancing an engaging range of activities and events that celebrate all that the site has to offer across nature, heritage and community.
- Continuing to engage and support the local and wider community - with a particular focus on accessibility and diversity.
- Building capacity within the organisation through staff, trustees and volunteers.



Near-term Priorities

- Embedding working groups and processes to support the delivery of the CMP.
- Adapting to and mitigating against the impact of the Bow Common Gasworks development (particularly with respect to reduced light and increased footfall), and disbursing Section 106 project remediation funds.
- Finalising improvement and management plans for greenspaces outside of the Cemetery Park walls - i.e. Ackroyd Drive, Fairfoot Wood.
- Building capacity and impact in our corporate volunteer and fundraising bases.
- Identifying opportunities to develop and better use of building facilities, including fundraising to realise those improvements in the Lodge and Soanes Centre.
- Continuing to maintain effective governance, through policies and procedures.
- Continuing to build our financial sustainability.

Longer-term Goals

- Establish and deliver the Monuments Strategy, document existing physical assets, establish processes for ongoing care and, where appropriate, restoration.



STATUTORY INFO

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (233566) and is a charity registered in England & Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Louise Robinson, as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The company has 382 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within the Articles of Association as agreed by the trustees. The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and staff, and the Board of Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction and work to ensure that the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission. It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of 9 trustees as of 31st March 2025 and met four times during the reporting period.

The trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Louise Robinson (Chair)
Jasmina Negrini (Vice Chair)
Ruth Bradshaw
Deborah Colvin
Gerard Curtis
Stavros Fotiadis
Teresa Hall
Andrew Moffatt
Colin Wiseman

The following trustee retired on completion of his maximum term during the reporting period:
Toby Sibley

Recruitment and appointment of members and trustees

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 3 trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second consecutive three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills that FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the Trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New trustees are formally appointed at the AGM. The Trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such post-holders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

Risk management

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the Board of Trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities.

The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

- That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities

Financial review

Total income for the 2024-2025 financial year amounted to £211,747 (2023-24: £606,522). A significant portion (£389,569) of the reported income in 2023-24 arose from the Section 106 monies arising from the developers of the Bow Gasworks development.

This will fund the FoTHCP's 10-year response to the impact of the development, with proceeds committed and restricted in accordance with the established project plan. Removing the impact of this, regular income saw a year on year decrease due to the significant decrease in grant funding following the resignation of the Heritage Officer and the seasonality of those projects.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £264,491 (2023-24: £198,125). Increased costs of materials and contractors was offset in part by a reduction in activities particularly around heritage and in line with disbursing grant funding. Expenditure continues to be prudently managed due to continued uncertainty against the cost-of living crisis and fundraising environment.

Our key priorities have been to build our staff capacity, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP.

Results of the year

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net deficit for the year of £52,744 and a total of £638,281 being carried forward (of which £259,877 is unrestricted). Fixed assets are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Readers should also note that in the foreseeable future deficits may be seen as the S106 Bow Gasworks mitigation money is disbursed.

Reserves policy and calculation

The Charity receives a Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets (£31,700) - which accounts for around 10-15% of annual costs. Other costs arising from the management of the Cemetery Park are covered by the FoTHCP's fundraising activities/grants.

The FoTHCP takes a very prudent approach to managing costs incurred very carefully. The charity's method of estimating an appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of core work. The trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) (£80,000) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped) (£20,000). As at 31 March 2025, FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of £100,000.

At this time, the unrestricted reserves position stands at £259,877 and the Trustees are confident that the FoTHCP is meeting its reserve requirements. It is likely that the reserves position may be reduced and will not exceed targets within a few months.

In particular, and in line with the Conservation Management Plan, the FoTHCP have worked to determine funds in order to support vital health and safety, documentation and preservation/repair works to monuments and other assets within the Cemetery Park. This requires specific skills and expertise.

The Reserves Policy, including the optimum level of reserves, is reviewed and calculated on an ongoing basis and at least once a year. The Trustees expect that the reserves calculation will increase significantly due to additional staff members, site requirements and increasing operating costs.

Statement of trustee responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:

- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Independent examiner

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

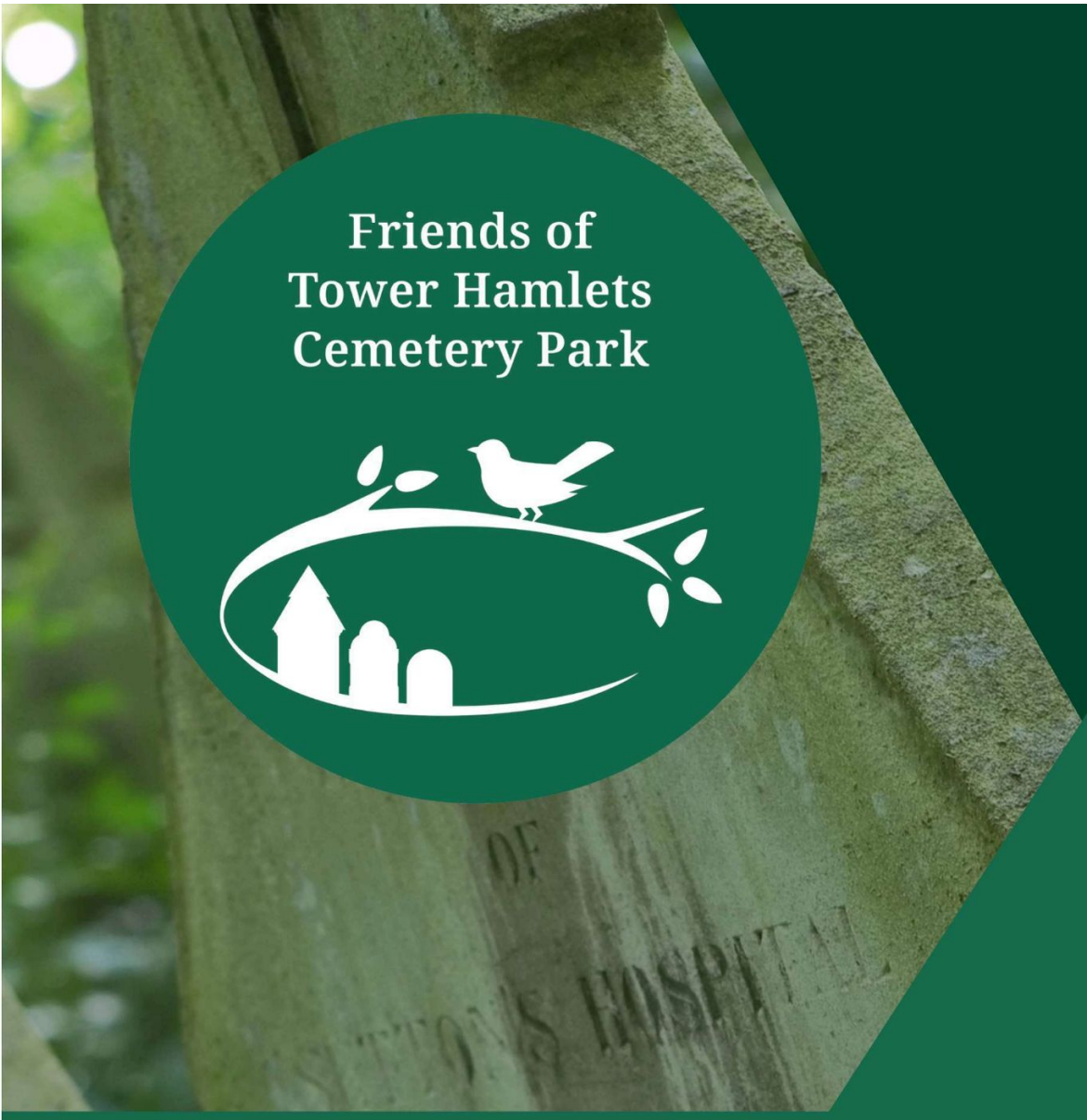
Approved and Authorised for Issue

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 3rd September 2025.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Louise Robinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees



Friends of
Tower Hamlets
Cemetery Park

FINANCIAL REPORTS



Company number: 5233566

Charity number: 1107136

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Financial Statements
and

Trustees' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

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for the year ended 31 March 2025

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The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Charitable company Information

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Status:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.
Charity name:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Company registration number:	5233566 (England & Wales)
Charity registration number:	1107136
Registered office:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Operations address:	Cemetery Park Lodge Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park London E3 4PX
Trustees who held office	Teresa Hall - Appointed 17 February 2025 Gerard Curtis Bowen - Appointed 17 February 2025 Andrew George Moffatt Stavros Fotiadis Deborah Jane Colvin Ruth Constance Bradshaw Jasmina Negrini Colin George Wiseman Toby John Sibley - Resigned 21 September 2024
Chair:	Louise Robinson
Vice chair:	Jasmina Negrini
Independent Examiner:	**Anthony Armstrong FCA** **Armstrong & Co** ***Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor*** 4a Printing House Yard Hackney Road London E2 7PR
Bankers:	**CAF Bank** 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Trustees' Report, incorporating the Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

CHARITY MANAGEMENT

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 2nd September 2004 and amended on 2nd December 2004, 15 March 2010 and 22 September 2013. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The company has 382 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations made from time to time by the Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees of the charity who held office during the year are disclosed on page 3.

Recruitment and Appointment of Members and Trustees

The company is administered through the Trustees who must number at least three. Meetings of the trustees require at least one third and no less than two of its trustees to be present. Trustees are recruited via an open recruitment process, for 3-year terms. Trustees may serve up to two consecutive terms before standing down. The appointment of trustees is made at the annual general meeting. In addition, the trustees can appoint a trustee either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional trustee until the next annual general meeting.

Reserves Policy

The charity receives a modest Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The rest and the majority of the costs of the Cemetery Park and the charity are covered by the Friends' fundraising via charitable activities and grants. The support costs of the Friends are pared to the minimum and the costs of maintaining the site are very carefully managed. The charity's method of estimating the appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of the core work. In doing so, the trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to 6 months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) and 3 months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped).

The Friends have calculated a target of £100,000 as follows:

Core operating costs (6 months)	£80,000
Contingency costs (3 months)	£20,000
Total:	£100,000

The current unrestricted reserves stand at £259,877 so we are currently meeting our reserve requirement. However, the optimum level of reserves is reviewed on an ongoing basis and at minimum twice a year and may increase next year due to additional staff members and increasing operating costs.

Public benefit statement

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The main activities undertaken by the charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit are outlined in the sections below.

Objectives and activities

In summary, the Charity's objects ("the Objects") are to promote, for the public benefit, the preservation, care and improvement of the historic cemetery as a park, historic Victorian-era Magnificent Seven cemetery,a place of history and ecological interest and beauty and as a closed burial ground. Also, to promote, for the public benefit, the preservation, care and improvement of those parts of the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Green Link Local Nature Reserve which are not within the area of the historic cemetery, which together form the designated Local Nature Reserve and Metropolitan Site for the Importance of Nature Conservation under the management of the charity.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Trustees' Report, incorporating the Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. This woodland cemetery is a unique place of transformation: a people's cemetery, a sanctuary for humans as well as nature, a place for festivals, field studies and forest schools. Always changing with the seasons it is rooted in the history of ordinary people, a place of rich heritage that is full of possibilities and freedom for all.

Background to the Cemetery Park and the Friends

The management of the Friends is rooted in an informal Friends committee established 1990. The aim of the committee was to save the site from threats of development, and to restore it from its overgrown and unwelcoming state into a loved space of public value and purpose. The Friends later registered as a charity, and in 2004 took the step to become an incorporated charity.

The Friends manage, on behalf of the Council, the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The area of the LNR includes the historic cemetery, Scrapyard Meadow, Cantrell Road (a service road which now resembles a 'country footpath') and the Ackroyd Drive Greenlink (which forms a Green Corridor to Mile End Park and the Regent's Canal). We refer to the whole area in this report as the 'Cemetery Park'. This is how it is locally known. The LNR is a site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, and is mostly in a Borough conservation area. It is the richest natural site in Tower Hamlets, the only semi-natural woodland, a centrally-important site for local history and remembrance, and facilitates extensive educational programmes delivered by the Friends and other local organisations.

Financial Review

Results for the year

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the annexed financial statements. The Statement of

Financial Activities shows net expenditure for the year of £52,744 and reserves of £638,281. The Trustees wish to explain that it is

probable that net expenditure will result for some years to come as reserves, which are at an exceptionally high level due to Section 106 receipts, are expended.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity.

Fixed assets are set out in Note 10 to the accounts.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for re-appointment.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 3 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Robinson
Chair of Trustees

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees (who are the directors of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
b) Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
c) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
d) Follow applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
e) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and charity legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner of Armstrong & Co

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

4a Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

Dated: 3 September 2025

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Activities

incorporating the income and expenditure account

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	60,848	-	-	60,848	112,371
Charitable activities	4	127,594	6,667	-	134,261	95,621
Other trading activities	5	984	-	-	984	1,245
Investments	6	6,524	9,130	-	15,654	7,716
Other income	7	-	-	-	-	389,569
Total income		**195,950**	**15,797**	**-**	**211,747**	**606,522**
Expenditure on:						
Charitableactivities	8	226,087	38,404	-	264,491	198,125
Total expenditure		**226,087**	**38,404**	**-**	**264,491**	**198,125**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(30,137)	(22,607)	-	(52,744)	408,397
Transfers between funds	17	5,700	(5,700)	-	-	
Net movement in funds		**(24,437)**	**(28,307)**	**-**	**(52,744)**	**408,397**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	13	284,314	406,711	-	691,025	282,628
Total funds carried forward	13	**259,877**	**378,404**	**-**	**638,281**	**691,025**

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Postion

as at 31 March2025

		31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	9,359		14,982	
Cash at bank and In hand	11	668,368		687,080	
Total current assets		677,727		702,062	
		39,446		11,037	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12				
Net current assets/(liabilities)			638,281		691,025
Total net assets			638,281		691,025
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	15		378,404		406,711
Unrestricted funds	15		259,877		284,314
Total charity funds	19		638,281		691,025

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 3 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Robinson
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Netcashprovidedby/(usedin)operating activities	1	(34,366)	369,143
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		15,654	7,716
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		15,654	7,716
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(18,712)	376,859
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	687,080	310,221
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	**668,368**	**687,080**

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	2025 £	2024 £
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Netincome/(expenditure)forthereportingperiod(asperthestatement of financial activities)	(52,744)	408,397
Adjustments for:		
Dividends,interest and rents from investments	(15,654)	(7,716)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	5,623	(11,771)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	28,409	(19,765)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**(34,366)**	**369,143**

	2025 £	2024 £
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	668,368	687,080
Total cash and cash equivalents	**668,368**	**687,080**

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Accounting Policies

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Basis of preparation

Thefinancial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)'.

b) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

c) the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue,and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Restricted Funds

Restricted fundsare to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestrictedfundsare funds received which have no restrictions placed on their use and are available as general funds.

Designated Funds

Designatedfundsare unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentalspaidunderoperatingleasesarecharged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Accounting Policies

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangiblefixedassetsare stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net outgoing resources

	2025	2024
Net outgoing resources are stated after charging:	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service	1,600	1,600
Independent Examiner's fees - other services	598	624
	-	-

Trustees' emoluments

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Donations - individuals	£	£	£	£
Donations - organisations	17,113	-	17,113	27,202
Grants	13,408	-	13,408	17,122
	30,327	-	30,327	68,047
	60,848	-	60,848	112,371

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Hosting	£	£	£	£
Events	19,199	-	19,199	15,959
Membership	2,725	6,667	9,392	1,659
LBTH SLA	235	-	235	617
Milwall Park	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course fees	37	-	37	-
Corporate days	2,203	-	2,203	3,326
	71,295	-	71,295	42,160
	127,594	6,667	134,261	95,621

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Merchandise sales	£	£	£	£
	984	-	984	1,245
	984	-	984	1,245

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Interest received	£	£	£	£
	6,524	9,130	15,654	7,716
	6,524	9,130	15,654	7,716

7 Other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 T otal	2024 T otal
Section 106 receipts	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	389,569
	-	-	-	389,569

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

8 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
Park maintenance	£	£	£	£
Lodge costs	38,558	38,287	76,845	34,511
Volunteer costs	18,398	-	18,398	27,178
Events	1,209	117	1,326	1,253
Staff costs	9,843	-	9,843	9,073
Other staff costs	127,690	-	127,690	109,091
Premises costs	9,329	-	9,329	2,957
Provision for bad debts	-	-	-	3,946
Office running costs	9,475	-	9,475	-
Insurance	6,453	-	6,453	4,969
Interest paid	1,853	-	1,853	1,642
Bank charges	269	-	269	779
Accountancy fees	512	-	512	279
	2,498	-	2,498	2,447
	226,087	38,404	264,491	198,125

9 Staff costs	2025	2024
Staff salaries	£	£
Staff social security	118,752	100,371
Staff pensions	5,787	5,516
	3,151	3,444
	127,690	109,331
Average number of employees during the year was:	4	3

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or their associates for services as a trustee during the year ended 31 March 2025 nor to 31 March 2024.

Employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the current year and previous year:	None	None

10 Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture & fixtures	T otal
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April2024	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2025	5,597	727	6,324
Depreciation			
As at 1 April2024	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2025	5,597	727	6,324
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2025	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	-

11 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating debtors	5,714	11,675
Staff loans	3,226	3,075
Prepayments	419	232
	9,359	14,982

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Employment taxes	1,665	3,839
Pensions	2,423	1,721
Net salaries	-	297
Accruals	35,358	5,180
	39,446	11,037

13 The funds of the charity: current year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Unrestricted funds					
	406,711	15,797	(38,404)	(5,700)	378,404
Restricted income funds					
General funds	284,314	195,950	(226,087)	5,700	259,877
	691,025	211,747	(264,491)	-	638,281

14 The funds of the charity: prior year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	22,417	389,569	(5,750)	475	406,711
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	260,211	216,953	(192,375)	(475)	284,314
	282,628	606,522	(198,125)	-	691,025

15 Restricted funds: current period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Fairfoot Radcliffe Trust Section	6,000	6,738	7,038	(5,700)	-
106 St George's Town Hall	2,450	58	-	-	2,508
	389,569	8,812	30,159	-	368,222
	8,690	189	1,207	-	7,673
	406,711	15,797	38,404	(5,700)	378,404

16 Restricted funds: prior period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Fairfoot Garfield Weston	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Foundation Heritage Lottery	-	-	83	83	-
Fund Radcliffe Trust Section	-	-	392	392	-
106 St George's Town Hall	2,450	-	-	-	2,450
	-	389,569	-	-	389,569
	13,966	-	5,276	-	8,690
	22,417	389,569	5,750	475	406,711

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financedbyrestrictedfunds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Garfield Weston Foundation	Supports actions around CMP (monuments, Lodge), build history and heritage offering through actvities and events.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
Radcliffe Trust	Funds to provide greenwood working courses for disadvantaged communities.
Section 106	Pursuant to the Bow Gasworks development on the southern side of the Cemetery Park, the property developers are obligated to pay S106 funds to mitigate the environmental impact of the development. These funds are against a 10 year project plan, and are restricted against works as defined within the project plan submitted to and agreed by FoTHCP and LBTH.
St George's Town Hall	Community development contribution for the redevelopment of St George's green space, planting and labour, to extend local access and biodiversity corridors.

17 Transfers between funds: current period	**General funds**	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**T otal**
Restricted to general	5,700		(5,700)		-
	5,700	-	(5,700)	-	-

18 Transfers between funds: prior period	**General funds**	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**T otal**
General to restricted	(475)		475		-
	(475)	-	475	-	-

19 Net assets attributable to funds: current period	**General funds**	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**T otal**
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	299,324	-	378,404	-	677,728
Current liabilities	(39,447)	-	-	-	(39,447)
Net assets represented by funds	259,877	-	378,404	-	638,281

20 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period	**General funds**	**Designated funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Endowment funds**	**T otal**
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	295,351	-	406,711	-	702,062
Current liabilities	(11,037)	-	-	-	(11,037)
Net assets represented by funds	284,314	-	406,711	-	691,025

21 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

22 Post balance sheet events

Therewerenosignificantpost balance sheet events.

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

23 Pension commitments

The charitycontributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

		2025	2024
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:	£	2,423	£ 1,721

24 Contingent liabilities

Thecharitablecompany had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2025 nor at 31 March 2024.

25 Related parties

Therewerenodisclosable related party transactions during the year.

26 Transactions with trustees

Therewerenomaterialtransactions with the trustees during the year.

27 Gifts in kind and volunteers

Duringtheyearthecharitablecompany benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

28 Major funders

Inaccordancewith Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	***Project name / Purpose of***		
LB of Tower Hamlets	***Park maintenance and litter picking***	£	31,900

29 Company status

Thecompany islimited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park.

The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink.

Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.

Office Address: Cemetery Park Lodge, Southern Grove, Mile End, London, E3 4PX

www.fothcp.org
@fothcp

Registered Charity No. 1107136
Registered Company No : 5233566

THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1107136

Accounts



Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

www.fothcp.org
Registered Charity No. 1107136 | Registered Company No : 5233566

This document was produced with contributions from the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) Chairperson and the Board of Trustees; Staff; Terry Lyle (Honorary Trustee); Edward Milner and Mark Patterson.

Photographs of the Cemetery Park are credited to Ursula Armstrong, Jamie Casey, Chelsea Collison, Oana Damir, Claire Davis, Kenneth Greenway, Jamie Robinson, Claire Slack.

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Green Flag 2023-2024:
Community Winner - retained since 2011

London in Bloom 2023:
Large Conservation (Gold Category Winner)
Large Cemetery/ Crematorium (Gold Category Winner)
Heritage Park/ Garden of the Year (Gold)

Tower Hamlets in Bloom 2023:
Award for Special Contribution to Britain and London in Bloom

ABOUT US

Conservation | Heritage | Community

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London garden cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink. Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.

The Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. It is a unique site for transformation: a people's cemetery; a sanctuary for humans as well as nature; a place for festivals, forest schools and field studies. It changes with the seasons and the passing of time, but will always remain rooted in the history of the people of the East End and a place of rich heritage.

The FoTHCP was established in 1990, and ever since our passionate trustees, staff and volunteers have shared their energy, expert knowledge and vision to shape the future of the Cemetery Park for the benefit of all who use and enjoy it.

We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, and maintain and develop the site for enjoyment, remembrance and learning.

We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement with nature and understanding of its local history; support physical and mental health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion.

Each year we provide hundreds of events, workshops and activities, including volunteer opportunities, for the benefit of the local community, many of which are free or subsidised.







CHAIR'S REPORT

The Annual Report is an opportunity for our organisation to reflect and acknowledge the work done by our staff, volunteers and Board. I am both grateful and proud to share this progress.

The FoTHCP have responded to the recent period of change astoundingly well. We remained resilient throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and its lasting legacy, and have adapted our fundraising and activity programmes within the economic climate - retaining a strong, community-focused schedule.

Key investment has been (and continues to be) made into both the physical environment as a heritage site, local nature reserve and Metropolitan Site for the Importance of Nature Conservation, and the FoTHCP as a community-focused charity.

We remain committed to our agenda across three pillars - conservation, heritage and community - in all that we do.

In last year's report, we noted the continued importance of access to welcoming, safe and diverse natural green spaces for physical health and mental wellbeing. Tower Hamlets remains significantly short of the local open space standard. The immediate locale is expecting to become even more population-dense with the Bow Gasworks development. Whilst we are always pleased to welcome new visitors to the space, much of our conservation focus is now around preparing to mitigate the impact of this development on shade, noise, artificial light and increased footfall. We have determined a 10-year mitigation project plan, facilitated via designated Section 106 mitigation funds, around this.

Our conservation activities continue to be widely recognised as best-in-class. Through our volunteer and staff efforts, we have retained a number of accolades, including Green Flag and Britain/London/Tower Hamlets in Bloom awards.

"Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a vital green space for communities in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to socialise, enjoy nature, for children to play safely, and it provides important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental health."

- Paul Todd, MBE, Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Keep Britain Tidy

Many, many hours of effort and dedication go into cultivating environments that are unlike others in the borough. The space established and maintained by the FoTHCP is recognised as a hallmark for London, and is unique and cherished. Our approach towards caring for the physical space in a considerate and effective way requires many hands, and the Board are immensely grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who give thousands of hours each year to this effort.

What makes this space so special is its unique mix of conservation and heritage. We ensure that the space remains a respectful and reflective environment in line with its roots as a Victorian-era cemetery that was operational up to the 1960s. I've received so many notes of appreciation for the work of the FoTHCP in helping many people from across the borough, London and much further afield in finding their ancestors' resting place and documenting their stories.



In the 2022-23 Annual Report, we shared that we had finalised our first Conservation Management Plan (CMP). This is an extensive, 30+ year and multi-faceted strategy which spans the Cemetery Park's physical assets, including monuments (some of which are listed or on the heritage at risk register), visitor experience and interpretation, and the cultural significance of the space.

A number of the first-phase of CMP projects have been successfully started or completed, including the essential periodic monuments survey and ongoing health and safety work. Some projects, however, were necessarily delayed whilst we recruited a new Heritage Officer. We all wish Claire well in her new role outside of London, and remain grateful to her for her impact. Following a successful recruitment campaign, our new Heritage Officer joined us in May 2024, and we look forward to sharing progress as he settles into the role.



A much-appreciated group of heritage volunteers continued to support ongoing research, documenting local history and enabling so many to explore their own family and personal connections.

Naturally, our third pillar - community - remains a key focus. We have an unwavering commitment to maintaining a safe and enjoyable space for all. The Friends provide welcoming environments for so many community partners, local organisations and other groups to appreciate, discover and explore the Cemetery Park.

We continue to develop ways to engage casual visitors, including trails and online content, and with our recent increases in staff capacity we intend to further build this out. This year we have refined our schedule of events and activities, in particular Community Mondays and the free family programme throughout the school holidays. It was also great to see so many people enjoy the relaunched Summer Fair, and commemorate Remembrance Sunday.



The Board recognises that both the ongoing activities and our future plans require lots of work and expertise. To that purpose, we have been focused on building and cementing our organisational capacity as we navigate upcoming change: challenges in the charity sector, increased demand for the space, and the ongoing responsibilities of managing the Cemetery Park and its heritage and biodiversity.







While we have secured a 30-year lease on the Cemetery Park, our ongoing Service Level Agreement with London Borough of Tower Hamlets is up for renewal. We are following up on this in order to ensure we can continue to deliver within contractual agreements.

Moving into the Lodge while retaining use of the Soanes Centre, which is vital to accommodate our larger groups and activities, was part of increasing our ability to deliver, enabling us to build staff capacity and meet our objectives.

Our staff team has grown, with a replacement Heritage Officer, plus a new Ranger, and Administrative Officer joining us just outside of the reporting period. Today we are better equipped than ever before to offer additional employment and work placement opportunities as well as deliver on our programmes. We also see ongoing demand for our events and activities - our free summer programme remains incredibly popular and oversubscribed, and we are looking at how we can build further opportunities.

We have built and maintained a healthy financial position thanks to community, corporate and other funding bodies, built on our long-term history of developing the site and our effectiveness as an organisation. We have a significant amount of funds in our reserves as we received monies from developers (these are ring fenced as mitigation monies under section 106). Our other reserves will be for renovation and repairs under the heritage banner and more widely under the Conservation Management Plan, with a particular focus on visitors, interpretation and activities. That said, there is lots to do, and we remain prudent.

I'd like to end on a note of thanks, to our staff, volunteers, donors, supporters and members. I'd like to particularly acknowledge those recognised as Honorary Trustees at the 2022/23 AGM - Terry Lyle, Diane Kendall, Doreen Kendall, Marilyn Baltutis - for their years of service and support, and for their lasting contributions to Cemetery Park.



Louise Robinson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

MANAGER'S REPORT

The year began much like the previous year with a healthy flow of corporate and organisational volunteering groups visiting us. We rely on these groups to help us complete all our seasonal work in the Cemetery Park, and this has enabled us to catch up since the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted some works, and to also tackle new projects.

Our event programme continued to thrive, with foraging tours, forest school and themed heritage walks and activities continuing to prove popular.

We also took part in Love your Burial Ground Week in June, and in July we welcomed artists and their work into the Cemetery Park for an impactful and moving exhibition called Traces, which was much appreciated despite the very wet weather.

We were also really pleased to bring back the Summer Fair to the Cemetery Park after a three-year pause due to Covid restrictions. It was a great day attended by several hundred local people who enjoyed free activities and tours from the FoTHCP showcasing some of the work we do, stalls from local groups and organisations, numerous local craft makers and also with performances from the East London Music Hall Choir.

In February we welcomed students from Capel Manor College who did work experience and volunteered with us as part of their Nature Conservation college course. We are pleased to continue to support a wide range of educational initiatives in our unique setting.

We continued to offer forest school activities to children in the foster care system via the LBTH (London Borough of Tower Hamlets) Virtual School Programme, and in February I was invited to their award ceremony to give out an award and a presentation about Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. It was an extremely positive event and it was great to see all the achievements of the young people present.

Our staff team moved into the Cemetery Park Lodge in April/May, and we now use this space as our daily base for the staff/volunteers and administrative operations. This has really supported our growing staff capacity.

Claire, our Heritage Officer, left us in November to pursue a new opportunity in Wiltshire. It was a sad loss for us after her significant impact, but we wish her all the best in her future endeavours, and pass on our thanks and appreciation for all she did for the FoTHCP during her time with us.

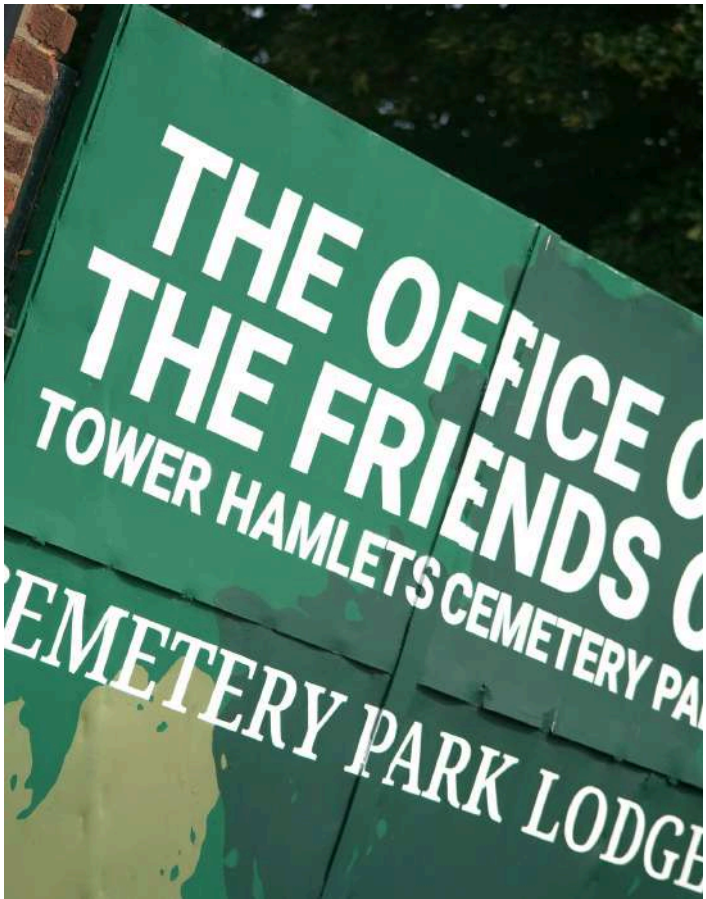
Towards the end of the reporting period, we finalised the recruitment of our replacement Heritage Officer, and introduced two brand-new roles for us of Seasonal Ranger and Office Administrator. All three positions will join us just after Easter and personally I'm very excited and looking forward to welcoming them, and what our new staff team can deliver.

In closing, I'd like to give a massive amount of thanks and appreciation to my colleagues, our Trustees and all our volunteers and supporters who have helped, and continue to help us, throughout the year. Your time and effort is greatly valued and appreciated. Thank you very much.



Kenneth Greenway
Cemetery Park Manager







OUR MISSION

Conservation. Heritage. Community.

We work to manage our woodlands and meadows for the benefit of all. We explore and celebrate our history and heritage. As a people-centric charity, we provide opportunities for learning, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing, and fun.

OUR VALUES

Freedom

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

Growth

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

Openness

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.

Friendship

We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.









STRATEGIC REPORTS



CONSERVATION

Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink is both a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. The LNR designation includes not only the historic cemetery site but also Scrapyard Meadow (Cantrell Road) and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink.

Plants & Trees

Last year, 2022-2023, the FoTHCP really needed to focus on catching up on conservation work in the Park that had not been possible during the pandemic because there were so few corporate volunteering days available, and these were more limited in size.

As volunteering activity recovered well in 2023-24, we were able to deal with much of the backlog, and we are grateful to those who supported these efforts. However, volunteering days rarely take place between December and March, which leads to a year-on-year backlog in the larger, seasonal-specific tree management works in particular. Ongoing tree growth increases the amount of shade in the woods, which, if not managed carefully through targeted tree management, can have a negative impact on wildflowers and insects within these ecosystems.

In January 2024, FoTHCP received Section 106 monies due from developers of the new housing development on the Bow Common Lane Gasworks site. This is to mitigate the significant impact of the development on the Cemetery Park.

The two main impacts are:

1. Increased general pressure on Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink Local Nature Reserve from an increase in local residents - around 3,000 in total once the development is complete;
2. A reduction in the amount of sunlight reaching Scrapyard Meadow and the southern areas of the Cemetery Park, which adjoins the development, as a result of shading from the tall towers, and artificial light from dwellings impacting nocturnal species.

The FoTHCP has extensively consulted with the LBTH Tree Officer and the LBTH Biodiversity Officer around the initial phase of a programme of tree works to improve light conditions within the historic cemetery. Through this work we have determined the optimal way to minimise felling, and of those trees necessary to fell/prune, almost all are sycamores, a non-native tree, self-sown in great numbers and only a small proportion will be affected. The initial phase covered trees in Memorial Glade and near the Knapp Road exit. Work will resume in November 2024 as is appropriate to the seasonality of this work, and will contribute too to the Conservation Management Plan objectives.







Meadows

Our meadows have an outstanding diversity of wildflowers and insects, but encouraging and preserving this requires resources and attention. We had noticed that some of the diversity was challenged because we did not have sufficient resources (hands-on volunteers and groups) to support our management efforts effectively during the pandemic. In the following two years, thanks to the efforts of key partners and supporters, we have been able to make improvements in a number of key areas, and this is beginning to show positive and encouraging results.

The S106 monies will also be used in part to extend this focus, enabling us to direct time, focus and also tools and equipment towards these habitats, which are key pockets of interest within the Cemetery Park. In particular, we intend to establish a programme of volunteers in complementary tasks, including clearing the cut grass for composting, and new planting and seeding activities.

Our meadows, woodlands and ponds are attractive environments for the general visitor, and those with a particular interest in biodiversity. They are also a vital resource for the forest schools and National Curriculum based educational programmes delivered by various local organisations and charity partners. This is a very important part of the Park's offer to local people.

Dipping Ponds

In June 2023 we replaced the dipping platforms to the rear of the Soanes Centre classroom. We worked with visiting volunteers from M&G to remove the old and failing platform to replace it with new. We have 5 ponds in the Cemetery Park and the three ponds with dipping platforms remain an important part of our events programme, and a resource for visiting school and nursery groups, as well as for Forest School, and Bow Beasties. They are important study and survey sites for our amateur biologists and entomologists who help us with biological survey & recording work.

Fairfoot Woods

We completed the project to improve the part of Fairfoot Wood owned by Tower Hamlets Council as an accessible space for wildlife and people. LBTH and the FoTHCP sought to work with the owners of the other section, Network Rail, to improve access to the local community as a public through-route, but this hasn't yet been confirmed. We hope to ultimately confirm this and improve accessibility.

Poplar Harca, landlord of the neighbouring properties, remain very supportive of the work of the FOTHCP, and invited us to support the delivery of some biodiversity enhancements throughout 2024 after successfully receiving some funding.

St George's Gardens, Cable Street, Shadwell E1

We have continued with our work here, funded by the developers of the adjoining Tower Hamlets Register Office. We have successfully used corporate volunteers for major works, and local volunteering events for community involvement and smaller scale planting and weeding activities. During the current year we developed most of the planned features, and anticipate completing the project by late autumn 2024.

Bow Common Lane Gasworks Development

This large housing development is well under way. Construction has started in the north west of the former gasworks site which adjoins the southern edge of the Cemetery Park. The developers capped off the flagship 21-storey tower, the first of several, in May 2024.

As part of this development, the developer is required to pay Section 106 mitigation monies due to address the impact of the development on the sites and manage the Biodiversity Net Gain, which is a Government-mandated part of new developments. BNG is a way of creating and improving natural habitats, and ensures that developments have a measurably positive impact on biodiversity compared to the pre-development position.

The FoTHCP have received the full amounts due of these monies based on the originally scoped impact, and, with agreement from LBTH, have established a multi-year plan to deliver on extensive management, enhancement and remediation work. These funds are set in a ring-fenced account to support the 10 years of associated projects.



In November 2023, the developers gave us a presentation on their new, adjusted plans for the site. There have been considerable changes to the originally submitted plans that will require additional Council approval. The main changes are an increase to the public green space from 1 hectare to 1.7 hectares which will be achieved by increasing the height of tower blocks on the east side of the development. This will mean some of the other blocks will be the same height as the flagship tower currently being constructed (21 storeys). While we are encouraged by the amount of additional publicly accessible green space they've been able to add, we remain concerned around the height and density of the development, in particular the impact of shade, wind and cooling on the Cemetery Park and its habitats.







BIODIVERSITY

As a site which embraces nature, we are especially welcoming to non-human visitors and residents! Many human visitors are thrilled when they spot a hedgehog bumbling across path or a pipistrelle bat flipping around at dusk, and many school groups enjoy dipping in the ponds or exploring the meadows.

With support from volunteers and experts, we participate in numerous surveys and studies to monitor and develop the habitats to best protect and encourage various species - some of such are summarised here.

Butterflies

The year was a good one, with 24 species reported in total, a very high number for an urban site. The most outstanding discovery was of the Green Hairstreak, a spring-flying butterfly never before recorded here. Four were seen, at least 2 of them females. The nearest population we're aware of is at Wanstead Flats. For us to record 4, the butterfly must have bred here in spring 2022, and perhaps for much longer. This butterfly is elusive and easily overlooked if not deliberately searched for.

In July, 2 visiting butterfly enthusiasts saw and photographed 2 White-Letter Hairstreaks, a butterfly reported here on a few occasions, the first in 2012.

We have a few historic records of the Purple Hairstreak, but none now for several years. There are 5 species of Hairstreak butterfly in the British Isles, all elusive: the White-Letter, Purple, Brown and Black, even more so than the Green, as they spend most of their adult lives settled on trees and shrubs. We continue to seek evidence of these, and are hopeful that over winter we may find evidence of eggs, even if no-one has seen the adult butterflies.

Spiders

In this 12-month period Jan 2023 to Jan 2024, altogether just 2,059 spiders representing 60 species. were trapped, a signficant reduction from the previous year (3,760 in Jan 22-23). A few more spiders were collected by sweep-netting. This years' figures were more typical of the annual catch – with last year being exceptional both in numbers and species richness (64 species). Like last year, a single new species was recorded. This was a small money spider Labulla thoracica (Linyphiidae), found at Lodge Graves in August. It is a fairly common and widespread species usually occurring in woodland and shaded habitats which has been recorded in several parts of London and throughout most of the UK.

The total number of species recorded for the Cemetery Park is still 168, because while recent specimens of the ant mimic Micaria have proved to be M. micans, it's now uncertain if any earlier records refer to this species or the closely related M. pulicaria, so at present the count for Micaria is one species not two!

The explosion last year in the population of Pachygnatha degeeri (Tetragnathidae) (2,173 specimens representing 58% of the total catch) was not repeated in 2023 and the total numbers went back down to just 377, so that in 2023 it was not even the most abundant species found.

This year one of the pioneer/disturbed ground species Tenuiphantes (Lepthyphantes) tenuis (Linyphiidae) was the most abundant species with 617 individuals making up just 30% of the catch. Numbers of the other two common pioneer species Erigone dentipalpis (45) and E. atra (4) were down from last year.

Some areas of the Cemetery Park where spiders had been found had been disturbed, including by the police search in 2022. This may have affected populations of various spiders, making it more attractive to pioneers. Otherwise 2023 was a more usual year with good numbers of wolf spiders but no spectacular populations. The total of the most abundant three species was 1,196 making up 58% of the total catch (down from 69.7%) suggesting a more balanced fauna this year.

My prediction about the two rapidly spreading species has proved unfounded so far but I still think it is likely that both Anyphaena numida (Anyphaenidae) and Episinus maculipes (Theridiidae) will appear in the Cemetery Park sooner or later.

Edward Milner 14/7/2024

Bees

In summer 2023, we saw bee numbers down on previous years, and we continue to monitor and where possible mitigate this trend given the vital role that bees play within the ecosystem.

Bumblebees in particular were sighted far less frequently vs prior years. This decline comes in the aftermath of the intense heat wave of 2022 which hit just as bumblebee colonies would have been reaching peak size. Bumblebees cannot cope well with extreme heat events (exceeding 30 degrees Celsius) and really struggle to regulate their body temperature. In 2022, temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius in central London making life very challenging for bumblebees. Numbers are slowly beginning to recover but are not where they were prior to 2022.

The heatwave of 2022 also wiped out almost all of the scabious blooms which has really hit numbers of the large scabious mining bee, Andrena Hattorfiana. This is our largest UK mining bee and one of our rarest bees. Across its entire European range it is threatened with extinction as it is slow to reproduce and has very specific habitat requirements.

The Cemetery Park is one of only two sites in Greater London where it regularly breeds.

Our population includes less than a dozen females. Six females were seen in July 2023 which was a relief after none were seen in 2022. At the time of writing five females have been seen in early July 2024, one of which was using scabious in the newly cleared and planted area north of Scrapyard Meadow where mitigation works have been undertaken to create new habitat to compensate for the Bow Gasworks development.

This is an encouraging sign but the population remains precarious.

In June 2023 a new bee species was added to the survey lists that we retain. We added Hoplitis Adunca, the vipers bugloss mason bee to our tracker. This species is a recent arrival in the UK and at the time of its discovery the only records in the UK were at four London sites. It is currently spreading through east London and may be seen at any sites with an abundance of vipers bugloss, its only food source. The bee recorded in Scrapyard Meadow was a male.

Mark Patterson
Api:Cultural Business owner/senior consultant



Birds

Around 90 species of bird have been recorded within Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, though the numbers present could be higher as there are numerous unconfirmed sightings including nuthatches and treecreepers.

For many years, the site has supported up to 30 breeding species - notable amongst these are Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and the occasional Song Thrush and Common Whitethroat. The Cemetery Park also has an exceptional historic reputation for overwintering Firecrests.

We introduced dawn and dusk chorus walks within Community Monday sessions as well as part of other tours.

Centipedes

Myriapods (centipedes, millipedes and their allies) are widespread and common animals which are found in both rural and urban habitats. Centipedes (Chilopoda), being opportunist and generalist carnivores who will probably eat any animals smaller than themselves, seem to be able to occupy a variety of situations subject to such constraints as food, environment, shelter and competition and a variety of species have, at various times, been recorded in our towns and cities.

Some parts of London might still contain species that would have been here when these areas were truly rural and are present now either because of their ability to tolerate urbanisation or because they survive in more or less rural oases. Alongside these there could be species of more urban areas that have ‘moved in’ and, possibly, new synanthropic species that have come from elsewhere as a result of human activity.

In Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, several species have been recorded including:

- Geophilus electricus
- Geophilus flavus
- Clinopodes linearis

Most of the centipede records from London are from pitfall catches in vegetation at ground level and virtually no systematic searching has yet been done, particularly in other habitats such as dead wood and subterranean spaces. It is hoped that further study might lead to the discovery of additional species or even new species not previously recorded in Britain.







HERITAGE

This year, we continued to deliver projects identified within our Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which was determined in October 2022.

The CMP has allowed us to better understand the development of our historic landscape from 1841 to the present day. With it as a foundation, we have been able to plan projects, works, and events which enable us to better discover, conserve, and share the heritage under our stewardship.

Projects which have already been delivered since the completion of the CMP include the removal of damaged 1960s fencing around Sanctuary Wood; the relocation of park infrastructure near the Francis Monument; and the surveying around 70 of our monuments for future conservation works. We have also constructed an additional outdoor learning site in close proximity to the Soanes Centre, which creates new opportunities for events and activities for the FoTHCP and other groups.

The FoTHCP continue to identify more of these smaller projects from the CMP that can be completed within current resources and finances. We are also identifying suitable funding opportunities to allow us to carry out a more substantial programme of improvement works, such as monument restoration, the reinstatement of historic paths and views, improvements to signage and interpretation boards, and a comprehensive grave location survey. The Communications and Fundraising Working Group, along with the newly established Monuments Working Group, continue to guide these efforts between staff, trustees, and volunteers.

Haydn Schaare, a specialist from Abney Park Cemetery, supported us in completing the 5-year Monuments Health and Safety survey in the period. This survey identified 11 at-risk monuments, and these were subsequently either laid down or taped off to prevent further harm to the monuments or the risk of harm to visitors. Three of these monuments have recognised architectural and/or historic significance, and will be prioritised for conservation works in the future.

Sally Strachey, Historic Conservation, in conjunction with Conisbee consulting engineers, completed a survey and structural inspection of the Grade II listed Westwood monument. No major structural concerns were identified but some works are proposed in order to maintain ventilation to the vault and reduce the negative impacts of water penetration.

Our Heritage Officer, Claire Slack, left in November 2023, after three years working for the FoTHCP. We wish her well for all future endeavours. Jamie Robinson joined the team just after the Annual Report period. As a result of this vacancy, fewer heritage activities were undertaken in Winter 23/24.

We continued the successful heritage internship programme facilitated through Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). Brock Macpherson joined the Friends for six weeks between October and December 2023, and assisted with heritage research. Brock contributed to grave symbolism research, which was shared on social media and proved popular with our followers. We thank QMUL for facilitating this internship and wish Brock the best of luck for the future.

We have responded to over 150 grave enquiries during this period. Given the poor quality and availability of historic records, we are delighted to be able to support those tracing their family history, discovering long-lost relatives, and visiting the graves of loved ones and ancestors.

We extend our gratitude to the numerous heritage volunteers and grave researchers who give up their time every month to assist us with the large volume of grave enquiries that we receive.

We wish to extend a special thanks to Diane Kendall and the East London History Society research team who continue to support the work of FoTHCP.

COMMUNITY

Visitors

As we previously noted, the Covid-19 pandemic really emphasised how important green space is, and we have seen a significant increase in footfall and visitors since this. Despite many individuals returning to work in 2023/24, we observed a continued strong and diverse use of the park by a range of visitors.

Individuals, families and friendship groups continue to simply enjoy the space for a walk or a lunch break. A number of local residents (and many more from further afield) appreciate the moments of reflection possible within the site, and we love hearing their stories of family research and shared heritage.

We have a primary duty to ensure that the space is open, accessible and safe for all, and our staff and volunteers work to ensure that we meet this goal. Additionally, we are committed to celebrating and showcasing the space, through a range of activities and organised events - including many of which are free/subsidised through the funders we work with.

Activities span our expertise and experience across conservation, heritage and community. Our members and event participants can enjoy a range of activities where they can learn something new, try new skills and meet new people - all whilst enjoying the unique Cemetery Park environment.

In 2022/23, we trialled a number of new events, including those focused on arts, crafts and traditional skills, and those focused on wellbeing. These brought new audiences into the Cemetery Park and received very good feedback from participants, and we have continued with and extended these programmes.

We are proud that our events and activities reflect our commitment to diversity, openness and inclusion. We aim to embed these considerations into all our programmes, and have also piloted a dedicated ‘All-Abilities Volunteering’ initiative in 2023/24 which we hope to continue and extend. This remains a focus within our Conservation Management Plan, particularly as we plan for physical and virtual accessibility.





"Forest School is an amazing programme run by the Friends. Ken and his team are just brilliant, and it is the children's favourite holiday activity. They come back so happy and don't even mind attending if it is cold or rainy. They just love it."

"Our family enjoyed the walk very much - we learned a lot and found our tour guide knowledgeable and friendly. We were all made to feel welcome. We would be delighted to attend more events, and are especially interested in child-friendly birdwatching, if such an activity were to be added."

"Thank you for offering these events; an invaluable resource for the local community. I love that this is on my doorstep!"

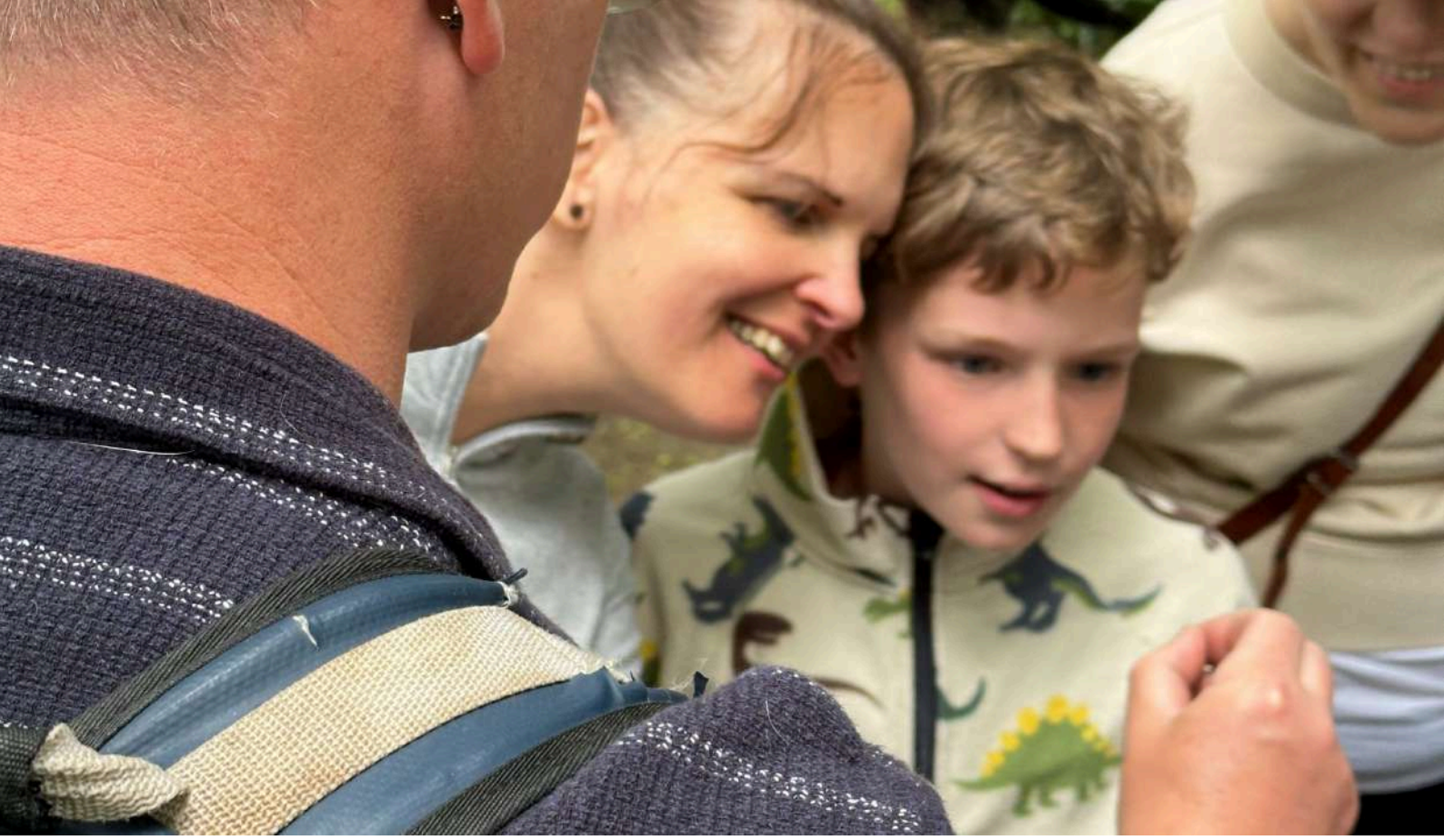
"The whole experience of being on the foraging walk with Ken was just amazing. He was an extremely good communicator, pitching the right level of information and keeping the walk entertaining. It was a very rewarding experience and great to spend hours in the park with the beautiful spring flowers and a group of interested and interesting people. Thank you so much Ken, you are an asset to the park and the park is an asset to London."

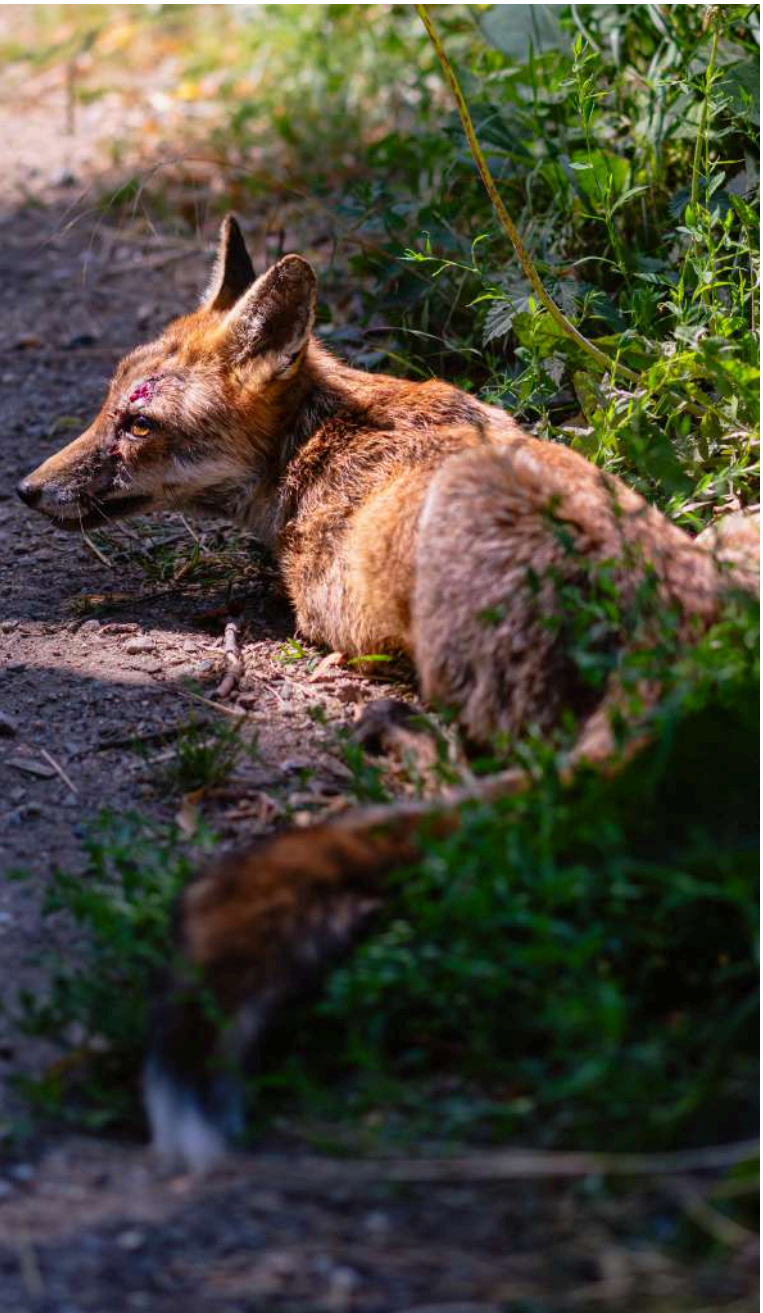
"I think the Tower Hamlets Cemetery park is absolutely amazing and wonderful - I couldn't believe that it existed in such an urban area - a haven of peace and space. Wonderful old trees, amazing monuments with the wilderness so brilliantly managed for wildlife. The nearby residents are unbelievably lucky!"

Selected quotes are from event participants who were invited to complete a post-event feedback form as part of ongoing evaluation and monitoring.

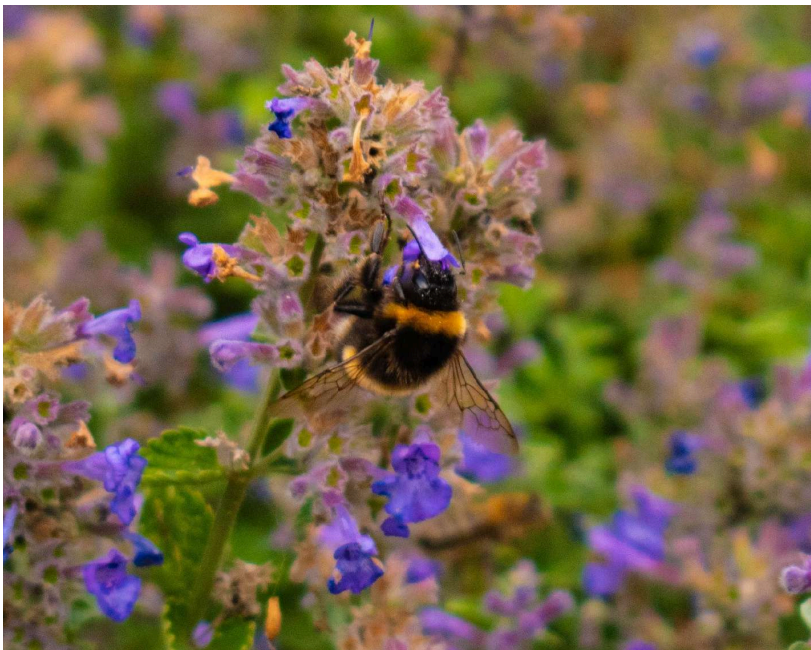










Events and Activities

We hosted a diverse range of events and activities, both directly and through a number of partners and subject-matter experts. Events are advertised on our website, social media and on-site within the Park's notice boards.

In 2023/24, we relaunched 'Community Mondays.' These monthly events are free for members, and come with a modest charge for others. We had moved some events to online formats during the pandemic, so it was so exciting to return to in-person and connect with our members and the community. They have covered a wide range of topics, showcasing the activities of the FoTHCP and the unique characteristics of the Cemetery Park. Examples include heritage, family grave research, foraged foods, bats, hedgehogs, dawn and dusk birdsong chorus walks, and much more.

In summer 2023, we were thrilled, too, to relaunch our annual Summer Fair! This was a major success and well-attended and enjoyed by the community. We hosted a number of tours, craft sessions, and showcased local vendors and talents including the East London Music Hall Choir.

In November, we hosted the annual Remembrance Day service, which is an all-faith, all-welcome event. We are grateful to the scouts groups for supporting and attending the event.



Volunteers

As a small organisation, we simply could not survive without the efforts of our volunteers. We hosted over 70 community volunteering sessions during the 2023-24 year. We were pleased to celebrate and share in National Volunteer Week in June to celebrate the 3,000+ volunteers who join us each year.

From supporting park maintenance and litter picking, to seasonal planting and clearing, and from heritage grave enquiries to nature monitoring, with everything else in between, we are greatly appreciative of all these efforts.

We are also eager to ensure that volunteers can learn new skills and benefit from an increased sense of community when they are on site, and continue to improve opportunities here.

Group & Corporate Volunteering

Our approach to conservation within the Cemetery Park, particularly in a way which remains sensitive to both natural habitats and historic monuments and gravestones, requires many hands. We are grateful to a range of groups and companies who have supported our projects within the Cemetery Park and in the wider borough, who contribute their time, effort and energies into our project delivery.

As noted in last years' report, 2022/23 was the first year post-pandemic that we could resume corporate volunteering efforts. This picked up further pace, including with non-corporate groups, this year. From April 2023-March 2024, we welcomed 71 teams (vs 53 in the prior period), from 54 organisations. This totalled 1,500 volunteer days. On a number of days we hosted large groups, of up to 100 people.

Many of the groups that volunteer with us return year after year and this workforce of large teams allows our staff to complete all of the essential conservation and maintenance work that would otherwise be impossible to do with our limited staff resources, as well as specific projects that need many hands such as restoring footpaths, creating dead hedges to protect our new wildflower meadows, and bulb and tree planting.

Corporate volunteering also provides the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park with much needed income, and we are grateful to our corporate partners for their continued support.

Members

Membership is crucial to the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. Our members visit the Cemetery Park, volunteer, attend walks and talks and events, and champion the unique heritage and nature space that Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park represents to the community.

In early 2023 we launched Community Mondays - which are free for Members to attend and enjoy 'taster sessions' of our events, and low-cost for other participants. After eight very successful events in 2023, we have scheduled the same number for 2024, kicking off with a Dawn Chorus Walk in April.

We remain grateful to all members, past, present and future, with 370 members at the time of publishing this annual report.

Donors and Fundraising

The FoTHCP are incredibly grateful to our donors and fundraisers - both occasional and frequent, and from individuals to organisations and funders.

This year numerous regular donors (as well as many generous one-off contributors) have brought in over £25k through our Local Giving platform, donations from event ticket sales and direct donations.

We completed our Heritage Trade Up grant, a match-funding trading grant we were awarded to accelerate our recovery and growth post-pandemic. We used the grant to develop the merchandise and branded goodies as a supplement to our wider charitable activities, and had a very good response to this.













THE FUTURE

We reported in the prior Annual Report that we had finalised our first Conservation Management Plan. This large and extensive project enables us to better understand the rich assets - physical and cultural - and to evaluate and prepare for opportunities within the Cemetery Park. The CMP also provides a strong framework to build on nature and heritage together - both so vital to the space and each with strong benefits to the community.

In 2023/24, we have prioritised making our organisation ready to deliver on the CMP. This includes making our organisation more robust: adding expertise and experience to our Board of Trustees; developing working project groups across key areas of focus; delivering training to staff and adding new staff roles.

Ongoing Activities

- Maintenance/groundskeeping in the historic Cemetery site and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, in line with the LBTH Service Level Agreement.
- Encouraging and nurturing environments that support biodiversity across flora and fauna, and documenting these populations.
- Managing the site in a way that is sensitive to its roots as Victorian-era cemetery and space for remembrance and reflection.
- Developing/enhancing an engaging range of activities and events that celebrate all that the site has to offer across nature, heritage and community.
- Continuing to engage and support the local and wider community - with a particular focus on accessibility and diversity.
- Building capacity within the organisation through staff, trustees and volunteers.

Near-term Priorities

- Embedding working groups and processes to support the delivery of the CMP.
- Adapting to and mitigating against the impact of the Bow Common Gasworks development (particularly with respect to reduced light and increased footfall), and disbursing Section 106 project remediation funds.
- Finalising improvement and management plans for greenspaces outside of the Cemetery Park walls - i.e. Ackroyd Drive, Fairfoot Road Woods.
- Building capacity and impact in our corporate volunteer and fundraising bases.
- Identifying opportunities to develop and better use of building facilities, including fundraising to realise those improvements in the Lodge and Soanes Centre.
- Continuing to maintain effective governance, through policies and procedures.
- Continuing to build our financial sustainability.

Longer-term Goals

- Establish and deliver the Monuments Strategy, to document existing physical assets, establish processes for ongoing care and, where appropriate, restoration.

STATUTORY INFO

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (233566) and is a charity registered in England & Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Louise Robinson, as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The company has 370 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within the Articles of Association as agreed by the trustees. The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and staff, and the Board of Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction and work to ensure that the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission. It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of 8 trustees as of 31st March 2024 and met four times during the reporting period.

The trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Louise Robinson (Chair)
Toby Sibley
Colin Wiseman
Jasmina Negrini
Ruth Bradshaw
Deborah Colvin
Stavros Fotiadis
Andrew Moffatt

The following trustees retired on completion of their maximum term during the reporting period:

Marilyn Baltutis
Sigrid Werner
Doreen Kendall

Recruitment and appointment of members and trustees

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 2 trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second consecutive three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills that FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New trustees are formally appointed at the AGM. The trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such post-holders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

Risk management

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the Board of Trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities.

The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

- That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities

Financial review

Total income for the 2023-2024 financial year amounted to £606,522 (2022-23: £302,647). A significant portion (£389,569) of the reported income arose from the Section 106 monies arising from the developers of the Bow Gasworks development.

This will fund the FoTHCP's 10-year response to the impact of the development, with proceeds committed and restricted in accordance with the established project plan. Removing the impact of this, regular income saw a year on year decrease due to the significant decrease in grant funding following the resignation of the Heritage Officer and the seasonality of those projects.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £198,125 (2022-23: £229,578). Increased costs of materials and contractors was offset in part by a reduction in activities particularly around heritage and in line with disbursing grant funding. Expenditure continues to be prudently managed due to continued uncertainty against the cost-of living crisis and fundraising environment.

Our key priorities have been to build our staff capacity, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP.

Results of the year

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements. The Statement of Financial Activities shows net income for the year of £408,397 and a total of £691,025 being carried forward (of which £284,314 is unrestricted). Fixed assets are set out in Note 8 to the accounts. Readers should also note in particular the extraordinary impact of the S106 Bow Gasworks mitigation money on this years' statements.

Reserves policy and calculation

The Charity receives a Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets (£31,700) - which accounts for around 15% of annual costs. Other costs arising from the management of the Cemetery Park are covered by the FoTHCP's fundraising activities/grants.

The FoTHCP takes a very prudent approach to managing costs incurred very carefully. The charity's method of estimating an appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of core work. The trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) (£80,500) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped) (£15,000).
As at 31 March 2024, FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of £95,250.

At this time, the unrestricted reserves position stands at £284,314 and the Trustees are confident that the FoTHCP is meeting its reserve requirements. It is likely that the reserves position may be reduced and will not exceed targets within a few months. In particular, and in line with the Conservation Management Plan, the FoTHCP have worked to determine funds in order to support vital health and safety, documentation and preservation/repair works to monuments and other assets within the Cemetery Park. This requires specific skills and expertise.

The Reserves Policy, including the optimum level of reserves, is reviewed and calculated on an ongoing basis and at least once a year. The Trustees expect that the reserves calculation will increase significantly due to additional staff members, site requirements and increasing operating costs.

Statement of trustee responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:

- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Independent examiner

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and Authorised for Issue

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 4th September 2024.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Louise Robinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees



FINANCIAL REPORTS



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Charitable company Information

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Status:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.
Charity name:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Company registration number:	5233566 (England & Wales)
Charity registration number:	1107136
Registered office:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Operations address:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX

Trustees who held office during the year:		
	Sigrid Werner	- Resigned 14 October 2023
	Ruth Constance Bradshaw	- Appointed 14 October 2023
	Doreen Kendall	- Resigned 14 October 2023
	Marilyn Baltutis	- Resigned 14 October 2023
	Toby John Sibley	
	Colin George Wiseman	
	Sally Jane Randall	- Resigned 14 October 2023
	Stavros Fotiadis	- Appointed 14 October 2023
	Karen Baxter	- Resigned 14 October 2023
	Jasmina Negrini	
	Louise Robinson	
	Deborah Jane Colvin	- Appointed 14 October 2023
	Andrew George Moffatt	- Appointed 14 October 2023

Chair:	Louise Robinson
Vice chair:	Toby John Sibley
Independent Examiner:	**Anthony Armstrong FCA** **Armstrong & Co** *Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor* 4a Printing House Yard Hackney Road London E2 7PR
Bankers:	**CAF Bank** 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 26 to 36.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 22 - 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner
of Armstrong & Co
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

4a Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

Dated: 4 September 2024

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Activities

incorporating the income and expenditure account

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	112,371	-	-	112,371	227,749
Charitable activities	4	95,621	-	-	95,621	73,025
Other trading activities	5	1,245	-	-	1,245	-
Investments	6	7,716	-	-	7,716	1,873
Other income	7	-	389,569	-	389,569	-
Total income		**216,953**	**389,569**	**-**	**606,522**	**302,647**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	8	192,375	5,750	-	198,125	229,578
Total expenditure		**192,375**	**5,750**	**-**	**198,125**	**229,578**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		24,578	383,819	-	408,397	73,069
Transfers between funds	17	(475)	475	-	-	
Net movement in funds		**24,103**	**384,294**	**-**	**408,397**	**73,069**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	13	260,211	22,417	-	282,628	209,559
Total funds carried forward	13	**284,314**	**406,711**	**-**	**691,025**	**282,628**

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Postion

as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	11	14,982		3,211	
Cash at bank and In hand	11	687,080		310,221	
Total current assets		702,062		313,432	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	11,037		30,804	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			691,025		282,628
Total net assets			691,025		282,628
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	15		406,711		22,417
Unrestricted funds	15		284,314		260,211
Total charity funds	19		691,025		282,628

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Robinson

Louise Robinson
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1	369,143	107,415
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		7,716	1,873
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		7,716	1,873
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		376,859	109,288
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	310,221	200,933
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	**687,080**	**310,221**

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	2024	2023
	£	£
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	408,397	73,069
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(7,716)	(1,873)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(11,771)	11,956
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(19,767)	24,265
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**369,143**	**107,415**

	2024	2023
	£	£
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	687,080	310,221
Total cash and cash equivalents	**687,080**	**310,221**

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)'.

b) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

c) the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the defination of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue,and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are funds received which have no restrictions placed on their use and are available as general funds.

Designated Funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net incoming resources

	2024	2023
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service	1,600	1,600
Independent Examiner's fees - other services	624	624
Trustees' emoluments	-	-

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	27,202	-	27,202	14,085
Crowdfunding	-	-	-	1,771
Donations - organisations	17,122	-	17,122	13,959
Grants	68,047	-	68,047	197,934
	112,371	-	112,371	227,749

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Hosting - General	15,959	-	15,959	(333)
Events - Training	1,659	-	1,659	-
Membership - individuals	617	-	617	600
LBTH SLA	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course Fees	3,326	-	3,326	15,551
Corporate days	42,160	-	42,160	25,307
	95,621	-	95,621	73,025

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Sales - Merchandise	1,245	-	1,245	-
	1,245	-	1,245	-

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Interest received	7,716	-	7,716	1,873
	7,716	-	7,716	1,873

7 Other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Section 106 receipts	-	389,569	389,569	-
	-	389,569	389,569	-

8 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Repairs & maintenance	-	-	-	15,862
Park access devel & maint	16,141	4,663	20,804	13,208
Lodge	27,178	-	27,178	17,435
Plants	2,669	-	2,669	5,086
Tools & accessories	3,308	905	4,213	3,225
Volunteers - hospitality	1,154	99	1,253	686
Events	9,073	-	9,073	17,494
Green waste	3,863	-	3,863	3,826
Professional tree surgery	-	-	-	560
Teaching materials	-	-	-	164
Biodiversity professionals	2,962	-	2,962	2,962
Publicity - general	-	-	-	861
Heritage	150	-	150	15,163
Staff costs	109,091	-	109,091	103,104
Recuitment & training	2,957	-	2,957	1,389
Soanes office space	3,946	-	3,946	6,286
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	3,150
Office running costs	4,736	83	4,819	14,979
Insurance - other	1,642	-	1,642	1,525
Interest paid	779	-	779	14
Bank charges	279	-	279	189
Accountancy fees	2,447	-	2,447	2,410
	192,375	5,750	198,125	229,578

9 Staff costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff salaries	100,371	94,855
Staff social security	5,516	5,216
Staff pensions	3,444	3,033
	109,331	103,104
Average number of employees during the year was:	3	3

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or their associates for services as a trustee during the year ended 31 March 2024 nor to 31 March 2023.

Employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the current year and previous year:	None	None

10 Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture & fixtures	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2023	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2024	5,597	727	6,324
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2023	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2024	5,597	727	6,324
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2023	-	-	-

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

11 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating debtors	11,675	-
Staff loans	3,075	2,904
Prepayments	232	307
	14,982	3,211

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Employment taxes	3,839	5,479
Pensions	1,721	2,994
Net salaries	297	-
Accruals	5,180	22,331
	11,037	30,804

13 The funds of the charity: current year

	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	22,417	389,569	(5,750)	475	406,711
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	260,211	216,953	(192,375)	(475)	284,314
	282,628	606,522	(198,125)	-	691,025

14 The funds of the charity: prior year

	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	64,583	139,084	(155,385)	(25,865)	22,417
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	144,972	163,563	(74,189)	25,865	260,211
	209,555	302,647	(229,574)	-	282,628

15 Restricted funds: current period

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Fairfoot	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	83	83	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	-	392	392	-
Radcliffe Trust	2,450	-	-	-	2,450
Section 106	-	389,569	-	-	389,569
St George's Town Hall	13,966	-	5,276	-	8,690
	22,417	389,569	5,750	475	406,711

16 Restricted funds: prior period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
CMS Social Impact	2,500	-	-	(2,500)	-
Cultural Recovery fund	3,800	-	-	(3,800)	-
East End Emergency	4,579	-	-	(4,579)	-
Fairfoot	46,170	30,000	70,170	-	6,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000	675	(19,325)	-
Heritage Fund	(2,331)	48,684	46,353	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	(3,028)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	16,864	6,864	-
Our Space	-	-	1,219	1,219	-
Pilgrim Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Radcliffe Trust	6,837	-	4,387	-	2,450
Small grants	-	-	96	96	-
St George's Town Hall	-	20,400	5,621	(812)	13,967
	64,583	139,084	155,385	(25,865)	22,417

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financed by restricted funds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

CMS Social Impact	To create a customer management system via Salesforce.
Cultural Recovery fund	Staff and event costs to help replace lost revenue.
East End Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support additional equipment and PPE costs to allow our work to continue.
Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Garfield Weston Foundation	Supports actions around CMP (monuments, Lodge), build history and heritage offering through actvities and events.
Heritage Fund	To hire a Heritage Officer to develop a community-led conservation, management and maintenance plan for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park over 2 years. In doing so, the heritage of THCP will be accessible to a wider range of people.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
National Lottery Community Fund	Funding to support development of the Cemetery Park Lodge to house office and visitor space.
Our Space	Funding for scoping and planting green corridor walking and biddiversity routes connecting the Cemetery Park to locale and Lea Valley.
Pilgrim Trust	Funding to support the delivery of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), specifically preservation/management of monuments and architectural features of significance.
Radcliffe Trust	Funds to provide greenwood working courses for disadvantaged communities.
Section 106	Pursuant to the Bow Gasworks development on the southern side of the Cemetery Park, the property developers are obligated to pay S106 funds to mitigate the environmental impact of the development. These funds are against a 10 year project plan, and are restricted against works as defined within the project plan submitted to and agreed by FoTHCP and LBTH.
Small grants	Establishing an "Elder Trees" community group for the over 60s for two-hour sessions, once per week (37 in total). Sessions would include activities such as sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, nature crafts, wild foods, planting and bird spotting.
St George's Town Hall	Community development contribution for the redevelopment of St Geaorge's green space, planting and labour, to extend local access and biodiversity corridors.

17 Transfers between funds: current period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
General to restricted	(475)		475		-
	(475)	-	475	-	-

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

18 Transfers between funds: prior period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
Restricted to general	25,865		(25,865)		-
	25,865	-	(25,865)	-	-

19 Net assets attributable to funds: current period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	295,351	-	406,711	-	702,062
Current liabilities	(11,037)	-	-	-	(11,037)
Net assets represented by funds	284,314	-	406,711	-	691,025

20 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	291,015	-	22,417	-	313,432
Current liabilities	(30,804)	-	-	-	(30,804)
Net assets represented by funds	260,211	-	22,417	-	282,628

21 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

22 Post balance sheet events

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

23 Pension commitments

The charity contributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

		2024		2023
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:	£	1,721	£	2,994

24 Contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2024 nor at 31 March 2023.

25 Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

26 Transactions with trustees

There were no material transactions with the trustees during the year.

27 Gifts in kind and volunteers

During the year the charitable company benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

28 Major funders

In accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	*Project name / Purpose of*		
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	*Park maintenance and litter picking*	£	31,900

29 Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.













The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park.

The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink.

Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.

Office Address: Cemetery Park Lodge, Southern Grove, Mile End, London, E3 4PX

www.fothcp.org

www.fothcp.org
@fothcp

Registered Charity No. 1107136
Registered Company No : 5233566

THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1107136

Accounts



Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

www.fothcp.org

Registered Charity No. 1107136 | Registered Company No : 5233566

This document was produced with contributions from the Chair and the Board of Trustees; FoTHCP Staff (Kenneth Greenway, Claire Slack and Richard Nimmo); Terry Lyle (Honorary Trustee) Mark Patterson and Edward Milner.

Photographs of the Cemetery Park are credited to Ursula Armstrong, Chelsea Collison, Kenneth Greenway and Claire Slack.

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Green Flag 2022:
Community Winner

London in Bloom 2022:
Large Conservation (Gold)
Large Cemetery/ Crematorium (Gold)
Heritage Park/ Garden of the Year (Gold)

Tower Hamlets in Bloom 2022:
Award for Excellence in Community Engagement
Special Award: Kenneth Greenway

ABOUT US

Conservation | Heritage | Community

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.



The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London garden cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink. Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.



The Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. It is a unique site for transformation: a people's cemetery; a sanctuary for humans as well as nature; a place for festivals, forest schools and field studies. It changes with the seasons and the passing of time, but will always remain rooted in the history of the people of the East End and a place of rich heritage.

The FoTHCP was established in 1990, and ever since our passionate trustees, staff and volunteers have shared their energy, expert knowledge and vision to shape the future of the park for the benefit of all who use it.



We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and maintain and develop the site for enjoyment, remembrance and learning.

We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement with nature and understanding of its local history; support physical and mental health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion.

Each year we provide hundreds of activities and volunteer opportunities for the benefit of the local community, many of which are free or subsidised.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The last few years have certainly brought unprecedented challenges for the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHPC) and the charity sector overall. Since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted wellbeing and mental health, and highlighted in particular how access to nature and green spaces is vitally important.*

This was particularly acutely felt in Tower Hamlets, London's most population-dense borough. The ratio of green space per resident here already falls significantly short of the local open space standard^, and some areas of the borough have been earmarked for new high-density housing developments, including the area immediately south of the historic Cemetery Park.

The FoTHCP recognise the importance of providing access to green spaces and are pleased that the Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink are so loved by many as 'London's most central woodland', offering diverse landscapes to both human and non-human populations. We are also mindful of the increased demand for green spaces - particularly given the anticipated additional footfall as a result of commuters and visitors around the Bow Gasworks development and the corresponding environmental impact of increased light and sound pollution.

We remain grateful to our staff and various stakeholders - from beneficiaries and volunteers to supporters and donors - for their continued support even as they have faced their own challenges.

The cost of living crisis is naturally top-of-mind and we have focused our energies on managing our finances, anticipating the twin challenges of a more depressed fundraising landscape and an elevated cost base.

We are grateful to the financial and in-kind support we have been given by so many donors, fundraisers and supporters, which has enabled us to retain our core activities and grow. We have built a very strong pipeline of corporate volunteering into 2023 and anticipate that this will yield revenue growth which enables us to offer free or subsidised activities.

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*Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), and Natural England.
^Source: CPRE, 2023. As of 2016/17, there was a total of 0.89 ha per 1,000 residents in Tower Hamlets, significantly less than the local open space standard of 1.2 ha per 1000 residents. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council indicates that the population is set to increase with 34,700 new homes, or roughly 100,000 more residents.



Because of the depth of this support, and the strong foundations that we have built, the FoTHCP feels proud of where we are and optimistic about what's to come. We set ourselves high standards and ambitious targets across our main areas of activity - Conservation, Heritage and Community.

- The Cemetery Park retained top honours in a number of awards. We certainly enjoy this recognition, but more than that, we love getting direct feedback from Cemetery Park users. Amid Tower Hamlets dense urban landscape, green spaces - and particularly our woodland and meadows - provide respite for human visitors and a haven for many other creatures.

- On the Heritage side, we continue to make tremendous progress within our Conservation Management Plan - centred on the monuments, pathways that help navigate our historic landscape and the social and cultural history that permeates the site.

- Our Community remains of vital importance. We have been able to deliver on and extend our volunteering efforts over the last 12 months. We hosted dedicated community bulb-planting days, and piloted a new 'All-ability' volunteering initiative - an experience which has informed our efforts to be inclusive and accommodating. We continue to work to make the site welcoming and enjoyable for all.



Visitors to the Cemetery Park may have noticed that we have recently moved into the Cemetery Park Lodge. Having an attractive, welcoming and secure base for the Friends has been an ambition for some time and we are very much enjoying making it our new 'home' with a functional office for staff and volunteers. We have invested in the Lodge and the Yard, and look forward to hosting events and exhibitions in our dedicated new space.

We hope to see you there soon!



Louise Robinson

Chair of the Board of Trustees



MANAGER'S REPORT

As we started this year we saw the last of the COVID-19 restrictions removed. As a result, we hosted a healthy influx of corporate volunteering groups which enabled us to catch up on lots of work that had been prevented or restricted because of the pandemic. As more people generally started to feel more confident about reconnecting to the world, we also experienced increased interest in our walks and talks, especially around foraging tours, new heritage topics, and forest school activities.

We were exceptionally busy up to the end of 2022 with park visitors, volunteers and event attendees. Into the first quarter of 2023, we were able to focus more on administrative tasks, including strategising and planning for the year ahead, and making some improvements to our website and events systems. We were also able to make further progress on our move into the Cemetery Park Lodge building.

Whilst we successfully managed a number of projects within the Cemetery Park, we also contributed to the wider community:

- We successfully began an external contract at St George's Park, Shadwell. We're developing a community gardening project which engages park users, and enhancing the space with new flower borders, spring bulbs and wildflower meadows. This has several benefits; firstly the Park is improved aesthetically and for biodiversity and it will also create interesting and seasonal backdrops for wedding photography because the Registry Office is now based on the north side of the Park.

- In March, we completed our three year project at Fairfoot Wood, where we've been opening up an old disused railway for public access and wildlife value. The work has gone exceedingly well and has been received well by local residents. We are working with the Council on the continued interest and management of the space.

- As this reporting year came to a close in March 2023, we saw construction work begin at the Bow Common Gasworks development after planning permission was awarded in 2021. We have been working to highlight concerns around the height and scale of the development, and the associated impact of shade, noise and increased footfall on the habitats we manage within the Cemetery Park. We are establishing robust plans to mitigate these impacts.

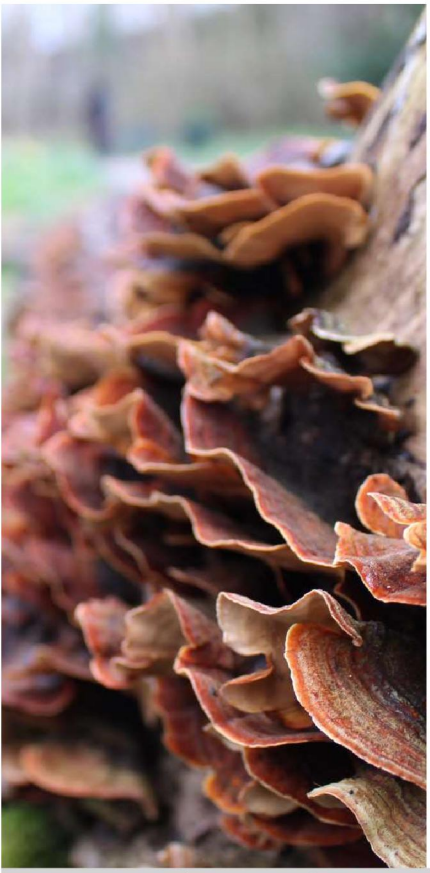
We ended the period with some exciting plans for volunteering and corporate activities, a compelling events and activities calendar, and hopes to resume many activities which were put on hold by the pandemic, including the Community Summer Fair.

I'd like to give a massive amount of thanks and appreciation to my colleagues, our Trustees and many volunteers and supporters who have helped (and continue to help) us throughout the year. This includes picking up litter, reporting concerns, and undertaking the wide variety of nature conservation and heritage work.

Your time and effort is greatly valued and appreciated - thank you!



Kenneth Greenway
Cemetery Park Manager







OUR MISSION

Conservation. Heritage. Community.

We work to manage our woodlands and meadows for the benefit of all. We explore and celebrate our history and heritage. As a people-centric charity, we provide opportunities for learning, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing, and fun.

OUR VALUES

Freedom

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

Growth

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

Openness

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.

Friendship

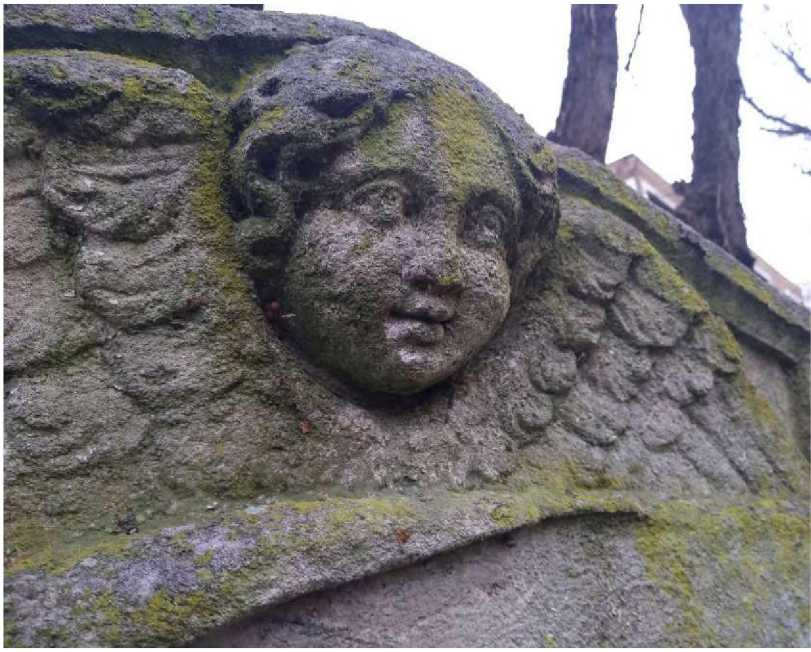
We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.













STRATEGIC REPORTS



CONSERVATION

The space we manage is both a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation*. The LNR designation includes not only the historic cemetery site but also Scrapyard Meadow (Cantrell Road) and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink.

Plants & Trees

We started the year recognising that we would have much 'catching up' to do within our Nature Conservation Management programmes after the COVID-19 pandemic. As a small organisation, we have in the past and continue to rely heavily on volunteer and corporate groups to deliver on important work within the space, and this work had been significantly impeded by the pandemic's restrictions.

Thankfully, we were able to resume these activities, and corporate groups in particular came back in encouraging numbers. As a result, we were able to begin to tackle many tasks that had been paused or managed on a minimal basis due to resourcing. For example, pre-pandemic a significant amount of work would be done to fully remove (at root) invasive or dominant species such as cow parsley to support our biodiversity efforts. During the pandemic, we could only strim the plants upon flowering, and so we had a larger task this year. We expect to continue this catch-up work throughout 2023-24 to fully overcome these natural backlogs.

Additionally, we undertook planting of young trees and shrubs in winter (November and December), to give the plants the best opportunity to develop strong roots to draw water from dry conditions. However, unfortunately this spring and summer brought exceptionally dry conditions and extreme heat and we endured a significant number of losses from drought.







* Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation are those sites which contain the best examples of London's habitats, sites which contain particularly rare species, rare assemblages of species or important populations of species, or sites which are of particular significance within otherwise heavily built-up areas of London. They are of the highest priority for protection (compared to SINCs of borough or local importance). The identification and protection of Metropolitan Sites is necessary, not only to support a significant proportion of London's wildlife, but also to provide opportunities for people to have contact with the natural environment.







Meadows

Whilst the Cemetery Park is often recognised as a local woodland, we have long been committed to biodiversity and many visitors enjoy and appreciate our meadows. Whilst looking attractive and changing with the seasons, these are also essential to encouraging and maintaining the outstanding diversity in butterfly, bee, beetle and spider populations that are recorded, as well as other invertebrate populations.

Whilst we have some meadows within the historic Cemetery Park, most of the meadowland we manage is within the wider site of Scrapyard Meadow and the Ackroyd Drive Greenlink. While wildflowers have a general reputation for being 'low-maintenance,' they do require management and this can be quite costly. We are recognising a relative deterioration in some of the meadows' floral richness, largely driven by stronger grass growth, and are working on new arrangements to address this.

We are especially mindful of the impact of the Bow Common Lane Gasworks (see below) impacting Scrapyard Meadow, and will monitor and mitigate this impact.

Fairfoot Woods

We finalised the Fairfoot Woods project, with thanks to input from Tower Hamlets Council, Network Rail, Tower Hamlets Homes and Poplar HARCA. This involved improving for the enjoyment of the public and nature a long-neglected and disused space near the Cemetery Park exit which adjoins a bridge carrying the Fenchurch Street Line. The site had largely been ignored since the 1970s, and over time a woodland had emerged, predominantly of sycamore as well as other (quite impenetrable) vegetation, including ivy, Japanese knotweed and brambles.

In April 2020, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council (LBTH Council) engaged the FoTHCP to improve this space which borders neighbouring space. Covid restrictions impacted the pace of work, but in March 2023, the Friends completed the project. A significant part of this included significant clearing of vegetation, and cleaning of the site which had become a flytipping location. We encouraged biodiversity with some selective planting of trees and wildflowers, and consider the new meadow particularly successful for birds and insects.

Human visitors also benefit from the space. We created a new entrance and footpaths within the site. We consulted with local residents and stakeholders extensively at the start and throughout the project, which included signage and communications to prevent anti-social behaviours including flytipping. Community response to the project has been incredibly positive, and we hope that the planting and development will bring lots of enjoyment to all in the future.



St George's Park

From time to time, the FoTHCP are engaged to support the development of green spaces in the wider community. One particular highlight for this year was the development of St George's Park in Shadwell. Upon the refurbishment of the Grade-II listed building as the new Tower Hamlets Register Office, the LBTH Council awarded FoTHCP a contract to support significant works on the external grounds and gardens, including establishing pathways, flower borders and wildflower meadows. The FoTHCP were engaged in this project largely due to our experience of working with the local community and involving local people in the development of the space (including E1 Community Gardeners).

We were particularly excited to contribute to this project, as it improves both the appearance and biodiversity of the space. We began work in October 2022 and have already substantially added to existing bulb areas. We hope that, given its proximity to the Registry Office, many will enjoy the planting as it seasonally evolves and becomes an attractive backdrop to significant personal events such as weddings.



Bow Common Lane Gasworks Development

In 2021, Tower Hamlets Council Planning Committee approved a development planning application on the Bow Common Lane Gasworks site, outside the southern border of the historic Cemetery Park. This is a multi-storey development with significant impact, both during construction and upon completion.

The FoTHCP worked with the developer and the Council to detail how the development would impact the natural space and the species within it. As part of this work, comprehensive light surveys have been done and have fed into the developer's practices to mitigate some of the harmful effects to wildlife in the nocturnal environment and the increased shade over Scrapyard Meadow. We have also reviewed the habitats within the site - woodland, meadows, ponds and glades - and identified potential opportunities for alternative / additional habitat provision.

Over the next several years, the FoTHCP will work to further mitigate the detrimental impacts of the development. Whilst we are excited to welcome many new neighbours as visitors to the Cemetery Park, we are mindful of the impact of increased footfall on historic paths and monuments. Accordingly, the Conservation Management Plan (see Heritage) will consider how we more effectively and efficiently manage nature and heritage together, and respond to these developments.





BIODIVERSITY

As a site which embraces nature, we are especially welcoming to non-human visitors and residents! Many human visitors are thrilled when they spot a hedgehog bumbling across path or a pipistrelle bat flipping around at dusk, and many school groups enjoy dipping in the ponds or exploring the meadows.

With support from volunteers and experts, we participate in numerous surveys and studies to monitor and develop the habitats to best protect and encourage various species - some of such are summarised here.



Butterflies

We continue to attract an exceptional number of butterfly species for an inner city site. In the 2022-23 period, we recorded 22 different species, including Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, Orange-Tip, Large, Small and Green-Veined Whites, Speckled Wood and Holly Blue. We noted that sightings of a number of species were lower than previous years, and attribute this to the drought conditions of spring and summer having an adverse impact on flora growth, impeding nectar production and drying out plants that caterpillars feed on.

We have previously sighted rare butterflies including the Small Blue (recording the first sighting ever in inner London in 2011).



Spiders

Throughout the period, 3760 spiders were collected by pitfall-trapping with just a handful more captured by sweep netting. This is well above the catch for the last three years, and species richness was also higher with 64 spp. trapped.

One new species was found: Erigone aletris, a relatively recent arrival from North America, which also occurs at nearby Mile End Park and has also been recorded from Greenwich Park and several green rooftops in central London.

The pitfall catch was swelled by very much larger numbers of the most abundant species (Pachygnatha degeeri) up from 655 to 2173, representing 58% of the total catch. While this is lower than it has been in some previous years it was a major change from the last three years when it has been around 33%.

Unfortunately this was accompanied by a major increase in the two commonest pioneer species Erigone dentipalpis (142) and E.atra (22), whose totals were not seen previously since 2007. This could be an anomalous result, potentially due to drought conditions, though we might have expected that to have resulted in a poorer overall catch. The total catch of the three most abundant species at 2621 made up 69.7% of the total – also a considerable increase relative to the last three years.

In conclusion, this year's catch may turn out to have been something of an anomaly and we may expect future catches to have returns more akin to those of the last three years.

As previously reported in last year's report, London's spider fauna is changing, but two particular species (Anyphaena numida and Episinus maculipes) seem to be spreading quite rapidly. These have yet to appear in the Cemetery Park, though we anticipate their arrival in the near future.

Beetles and Centipedes

Whilst the spring and summer drought negatively impacted the butterfly populations, the Rose Chafer Beetle (Cetonia auraton) was not affected, and was frequently sighted. The larvae of these metallic green beetles feed on dead wood and the adults fly up to flowers to eat pollen.

Generally, beetle recording within the Cemetery Park has been halted as we have been unable to find a qualified identifier. Beetle specimens are being preserved for future study and we hope to resume this soon.

Centipede records from the Cemetery Park are included in a forthcoming paper by Tony Barber and Edward Milner, which they hope will be published in the 2023 edition of London Naturalist.

Birds

Around 90 species of bird have been recorded within Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, though it may be more as there are numerous unconfirmed sightings including nuthatches and treecreepers.

For many years, the site has supported up to 30 breeding species - notable amongst these are Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and the occasional Song Thrush and Common Whitethroat. The Cemetery Park also has an exceptional historic reputation for overwintering Firecrests.

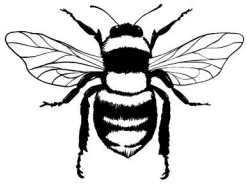
Bees

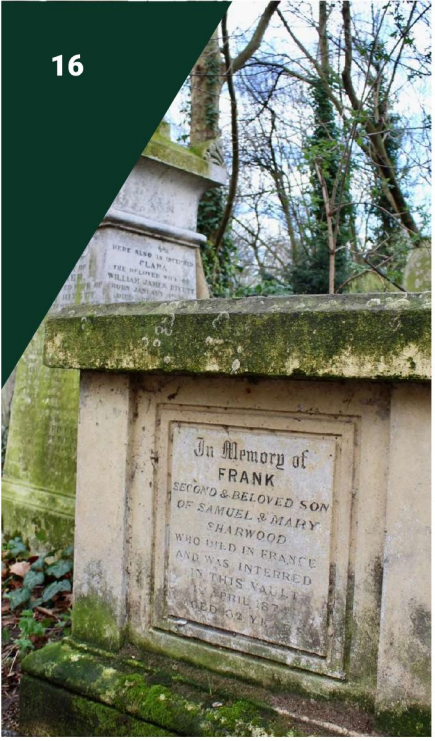
2022 was a difficult year for many of the bees inhabiting the Cemetery Park. The extreme heat in June/July was particularly hard on bumblebees, who don't cope well when temperatures exceed 27°C, and temperatures exceeding 32°C are lethal.

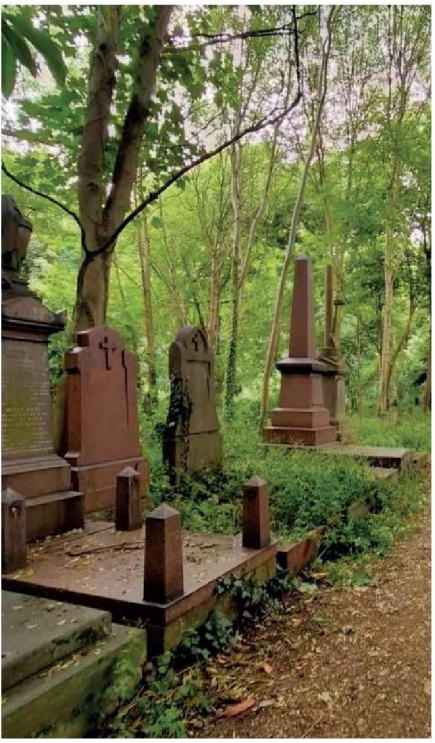
Being big, furry and having a high metabolism, bumblebees are prone to overheating in hot weather and are unable to keep cool. During the hottest part of summer many bumblebees took refuge underground and were only visible foraging in the very early morning hours. The heatwave coincided with a critical time of year when nests are producing new queens which continue the population into the following year. Nest mortality in July likely resulted in fewer queens overwintering and may explain why there were noticeably fewer bumblebees present in spring 2023. The cold late spring in 2023 was a further challenge for many bees.

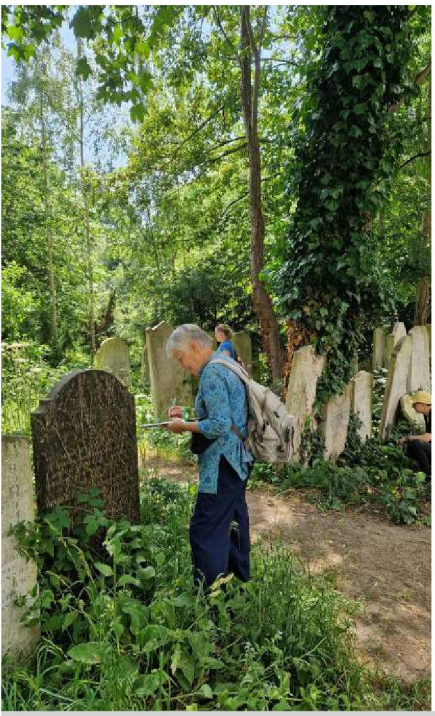
The Large Scabious Mining Bees which inhabit the Cemetery Park were also impacted by the 2022 heatwave. We are one of only 3 sites in Greater London where this nationally-rare bee occurs, and there were concerns that this bee may have become regionally extinct as no bees were seen at any of these locations in 2022, including the Cemetery Park. This species collects pollen exclusively from scabious blooms and flies from late June to mid August, coinciding with peak scabious blooming. The heatwave however caused much of the scabious to bloom far earlier than the bees were active, and by the time the bees had emerged their food source had almost completely dried up and died back. Fortunately females were seen in 2023 in decent numbers, so for now the species is secure within the Cemetery Park.

Spring mining bees were present in their usually high abundance and were not affected by the heatwaves occurring later in the season. Nomada Cuckoo bees were also very abundant, as usual.









HERITAGE

This year has been an exciting time for heritage at the Cemetery Park as we saw the completion of our very first Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in October 2022.

The CMP has allowed us to better understand the changes and development of our historic landscape from 1841 to the present day - including the monuments within our historic walls, the paths and routes that visitors explore, and the stories and shared history that we are so proud to be the custodians of.

With the CMP as a strong foundation, the Friends can now establish projects, plans and policies that will help us to conserve our heritage in a way that also complements the natural environment and biodiversity of the site. The CMP sets out the next 30 years of heritage work at the Cemetery Park and a substantial ongoing commitment both in time and resources. However, we have already completed several smaller projects including the clearance and replanting of an overgrown section of graves to the south of the Soanes Centre; surveying around 70 of our historic monuments for future conservation works; and the removal of the damaged 1960s fencing around Sanctuary Woods.

Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, the Radcliffe Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation, this CMP was led by the needs of our community and also delivered a new schedule of heritage engagement work as well as considering the needs of our built and natural heritage. In the 2022-2023 year, 515 people attended heritage events and activities ranging from grave symbolism walks to creative activities inspired by local industries of the past such as weaving and pottery - many of them being first-time visitors to the site. These visitors learnt about everything including local history; the stories of those buried with us; historic ways of making and crafting; and even how to record and research historic trees.

"Thanks to all involved in making this event happen, from organising through to hosting. A really fun day of meeting new people from different parts of town and walks of life. New skills made and shared between attendees too."

"Amazing and informative evening, quite magical in its delivery. The speakers were great."

Our heritage volunteers also achieved some incredible things this year. This included working on the development of new tours (including the 'Folklore of Plants and Trees' and 'Death, Disease and Doctors'), recording monuments, hands-on conservation work, mapping significant graves and researching the lives of people buried within the Cemetery Park.

Noteable discoveries this year include Sylvia Law's dedicated research into medical histories which uncovered Dr William Cumming, a pioneer of modern ophthalmology, and Pam Raven's work that linked the residence of those buried in the Moorby graves to the Sidney Street Siege of 1910.

Special thanks too to Diane Kendall and the East London History Society research team who continue to support the work of the FoTHCP.

With the support of our volunteers, we were able to complete over 150 grave enquiries for people researching burials on site, including an ex-Mayor of Bethnal Green, several workhouse residents, multiple chemists, the owner of the Barn Elms KitKat Club, a British featherweight champion and possibly the first female stamp dealer.

Work continues to capture and archive information about those buried with us - with hundreds of lives (and deaths) now captured in our digital archives. We hope to continue to populate this archive as we uncover more stories.

This year we also welcomed our first two heritage interns from the School of History at Queen Mary University London (QMUL). Emily and Sylvie quickly became valuable contributors during their time on site and helped with grave enquiries, guided tours, workshops, grave recording and grave research. We are grateful to QMUL for their facilitation of this programme, and of course to Emily and Sylvie for their work with us. We wish them both the very best and hope we have inspired future careers in heritage!

"My internship has given me great insight into the entwined workings of heritage and nature. I've spent many happy hours amongst the headstones locating families for enquiries and taking inscriptions of the monuments. Further research into the people that are buried here has been truly mesmerising. The spirit of the Friends makes the space feel so welcoming - my experience with them is one I shall treasure forever." - Emily (QMUL intern)





COMMUNITY

Visitors

The pandemic highlighted the need for and appreciation of green spaces. We have witnessed additional footfall within the Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, as well as additional sites that we have supported the development of.

As well as individuals simply enjoying the space for a walk or a lunch break, or for a moment of reflection, we have also drawn visitors into the Cemetery Park with a range of activities and organised events. These have been very popular across a range of topics - from conservation and heritage, to crafts and wellbeing. These have also brought new audiences into the Cemetery Park, and have yielded a number of benefits as captured by participants' feedback.

We are especially committed to diversity, openness and inclusion, and are proud that our events and activities reflect this. We are also embedding this as a key component of the Conservation Management Plan, particularly around physical and virtual accessibility.

We are also eager to continue to host free / affordable events where possible so that there are no barriers to participation.

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*Source: FoTHCP. Event participants are invited to complete a post-event feedback form as part of ongoing evaluation and monitoring.

"It was wonderful to learn about local history alongside making and crafting. It is particularly lovely to have such rich context and learn about the historical significance of the art we are making. Thank you."

95% Said they learned something new

90% Felt an improvement in mental health / wellbeing

82% Felt more connected to the community

95% Are 'likely'/'very likely' to attend an event in future

"I really loved the heritage tour! It was very interesting, and I loved learning about working class people as it's so rare to hear about their histories. I thought that each of the stops along the route were a good length and the stories at each were very engaging."

Volunteers

As a small organisation, we simply could not survive without the efforts of our volunteers. We hosted over 70 community volunteering sessions during the 2022-23 year. From supporting park maintenance and litter picking, to seasonal planting and clearing, and from heritage grave enquiries to nature monitoring, with everything else in between, we are greatly appreciative of these efforts.

We are also eager to ensure that volunteers can learn new skills and benefit from an increased sense of community when they are on site.

POSITIVE	LOCAL	INCLUSIVE
83%	73%	61%
Learned something new or developed a new skill	From Tower Hamlets or neighbouring boroughs	Of attendees were unemployed or retired

Corporate Volunteering

From April 2022-March 2023, we welcomed 53 teams from 42 different companies, totalling 985 volunteer days across the year, from companies such as Aviva, KPMG, JLL, Bank of England, Beazley, AECOM, Accenture, Freddie's Flowers, Barclays, UBS, RSM UK, Metro Bank, Sony and many more! As well as providing important income for the FoTHCP, these groups also completed vital work and helped us to catch up on some of the work that was postponed during the pandemic.

Key projects included restoring the Forest School area with seating and fencing; restoring footpaths that had been significantly used during the pandemic; creating dead hedges to protect our new green waste area; creating wildflower meadows and bulb and tree planting in additional greenspaces.

We expect to continue to grow our work with corporate groups into 2023/24 and beyond as we extend the corporate volunteer programme's range of activities and continue to support our capacity for work within the Cemetery Park.






Members

Membership is an important part of the FoTHCP and is a reflection of the positive feelings people have towards the organisation and our role, aims and objectives as a charity. In 2022, we started to review the membership offering and management - including the bi-annual Stone Stories publication, discounts on events and additional communication updates.

We launched Community Members' Mondays in early 2023 - which are free for Members to attend and enjoy 'taster sessions' of our events. We are thankful to our 355 members for their ongoing support.

Donors and Fundraising

The FoTHCP are incredibly grateful to our donors and fundraisers - both occasional and frequent, and from individuals to organisations and funders.

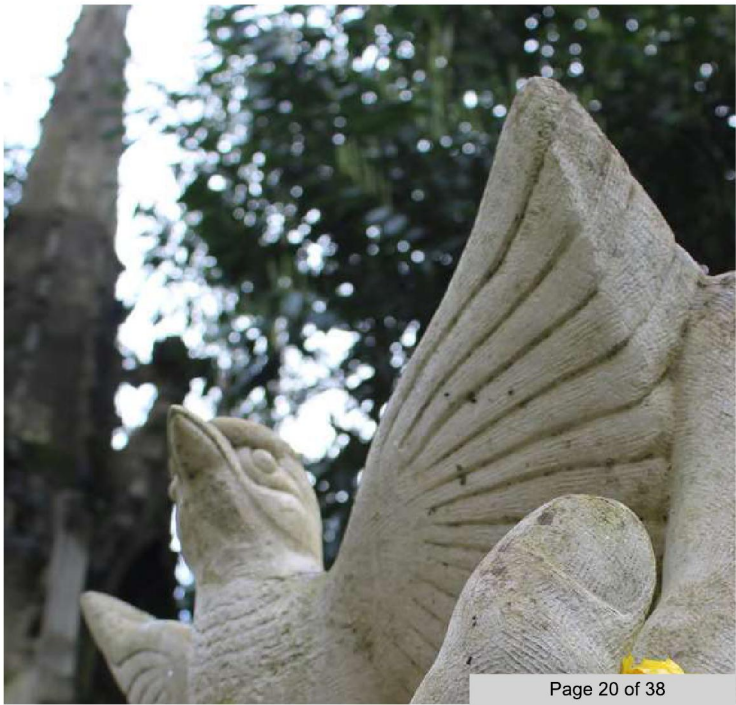
This year numerous regular donors (as well as many generous one-off contributors) have brought in over £10k through our Local Giving platform and direct donations. We ran a successful campaign to fund £2,300 of repairs to the Dissenters Chapel, a wooden structure and meeting space that was damaged by fire.

We've also been successful in several grant applications over the year including with Garfield Weston, Heritage Trade Up, National Lottery Community Fund and Tower Hamlets Council Small Grants scheme.

"Being in a beautiful place, meeting people, getting fresh air and exercise, and doing something useful is so beneficial. Everyone involved made me feel capable, safe and listened to."

"It was a really enjoyable, well-run session - good to spend time in nature, help out and it was a bonus to learn some fascinating things along the way."





THE FUTURE

We were excited to finalise our first Conservation Management Plan in 2022.

This large and extensive project helps us to better understand our assets - physical and cultural - and to evaluate and prepare for opportunities for the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. It also provides a strong framework to build on nature and heritage together - both so vital to the space and each with strong benefits to the community. As the custodians of the site since 1990, we have built a strong calendar of activities, as well as a lot of seasonal work that goes into maintaining and developing the green space and the biodiversity within it.

Ongoing Activities

- Maintenance and groundskeeping within the historic Cemetery site and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, balancing nature and heritage.
- Encouraging and nurturing environments that support biodiversity across flora and fauna, and documenting these populations.
- Developing and enhancing an engaging range of activities and events that celebrate all that the site has to offer across nature, heritage and community.
- Continuing to engage and support the local and wider community as they enjoy the unique space that is Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park - with a particular focus on accessibility and diversity.
- Building capacity within the FoTHCP through staff, trustees and other key volunteers. This includes project and programme management capabilities to support the delivery of the Conservation Management Plan.

Near-term Priorities

- Establishing working groups and processes to support the implementation of the Conservation Management Plan and its associated project.
- Adapting to and mitigating against the impact of the Bow Common Gasworks development (particularly with respect to reduced light and increased footfall).
- Finalising improvements and ongoing management plans for sites and greenspaces we manage outside of the Cemetery Park walls - i.e. Ackroyd Drive, Fairfoot Road Woods.
- Rebuilding our corporate volunteer and fundraising bases back to pre-pandemic levels to support financial resilience.
- Identifying opportunities to develop and make better use of the Lodge building, including fundraising to realise those improvements.
- Continuing to refresh and update our policies and procedures, including addressing maintenance and restoration efforts with a focus on risk management and health and safety
- Continuing to build our financial sustainability through recovering pre-pandemic income streams and engaging with Tower Hamlets Council to review the existing Service Level Agreement.

Longer-term Goals

- Develop a proposal to redesign the civilian war memorial surroundings within the Cemetery Park
- Establish and deliver on Monuments Strategy, to document existing physical assets, establish processes for ongoing care and, where appropriate, restoration.

STATUTORY INFO

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (registered company number 5233566) and is a charity registered in England and Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Louise Robinson, as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The company has 355 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within our Articles of Association as agreed by the trustees. The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and staff, and the Board of Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction and work to ensure that the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission. It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of 8 trustees as of 30th March 2023 and met four times during the reporting period.

The trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Louise Robinson (Chair)
Toby Sibley
Colin Wiseman
Marilyn Baltutis
Karen Baxter
Doreen Kendall
Jasmina Negrini
Sigrid Werner

The following trustees retired or resigned during the reporting period:

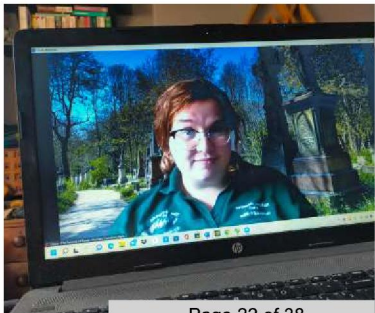
Diane Gibb
Diane Kendall
Guy Mitchell
Sally Randall

Recruitment and appointment of members and trustees

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 2 trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second consecutive three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills that FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New trustees are formally appointed at the AGM. The trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such post-holders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.



Risk management

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the Board of Trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities.

The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

- That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities

Financial review

Total income for the 2022-2023 financial year amounted to £302,647 (2021-22: £212,177). There was an increase vs 2023, largely driven by donations and the return of corporate volunteering activities

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £229,574 (2021-22: £199,837) which has slightly increased due to the additional volume of activities and inflationary climate for costs. Expenditure was prudently managed due to continued uncertainty against the cost-of living crisis and fundraising environment.

Our key priorities have been to build and maintain our staff capacity, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP. We have also faced additional capital expenditure as we complete works on the Lodge building - our new home within the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

Results of the year

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements. The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure for the year of £73,073 and a total of £282,628 being carried forward (of which £260,211 is unrestricted). Fixed assets are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Reserves policy and calculation

The charity receives a modest Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets - which accounts for less than 20% of annual costs. The rest of the costs of the Cemetery Park are covered by the FoTHCP fundraising via charitable activities and grants.

The support costs of the FoTHCP are pared to the minimum and the costs of maintaining the site are very carefully managed. The charity's method of estimating the appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of the core work. In doing so, the trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped).

As at 31 March 2023, FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of £92,045 as follows:

Core operating costs (6 months) £80,045
Contingency costs (3 months) £12,000
Total: £92,045

At this time, the unrestricted reserves position stands at £144,972 and the Trustees are confident that the FoTHCP is meeting its reserve requirements. Given the uncertainty of funding and income in the next financial year, it is likely that the reserves position may be reduced and will not exceed targets within a few months.

However, the Reserves Policy, including the optimum level of reserves, is reviewed and calculated on an ongoing basis and at least once a year. The Trustees expect that this will increase significantly due to additional staff members, site management requirements and increasing operating costs. In particular, since this calculation was made, the FoTHCP have moved into the Cemetery Park Lodge building and continue to explore routes to building capacity and enhancing our offering.

Statement of trustee responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:

- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Independent examiner

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 11th September 2023.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Louise Robinson

Louise Robinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees








FINANCIAL REPORTS



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Charitable company Information

for the year ended 31 March 2023

Status:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.
Charity name:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Company registration number:	5233566 (England & Wales)
Charity registration number:	1107136
Registered office:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Operations address:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Trustees who held office during the year:	Sigrid Werner Diane Kendall - Retired September 2022 Doreen Kendall Marilyn Baltutis Toby John Sibley Colin George Wiseman Sally Jane Randall - Resigned July 2022 Guy Mitchell - Resigned December 2022 Karen Baxter Jasmina Negrini Louise Robinson Diane Gibb - Resigned July 2022
Chair:	Louise Robinson
Vice chair:	Toby John Sibley
Independent Examiner:	**Anthony Armstrong FCA** **Armstrong & Co** *Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor* 4a Printing House Yard Hackney Road London E2 7PR
Bankers:	**CAF Bank** 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 26 to 36.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 22 - 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Armstrong

Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner
of Armstrong & Co
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

4a Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

Dated: 11 September 2023

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Activities

incorporating the income and expenditure account

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	88,332	139,084	-	227,416	140,664
Charitable activities	4	73,358	-	-	73,358	71,477
Investments	5	1,873	-	-	1,873	36
Total income		**163,563**	**139,084**	**-**	**302,647**	**212,177**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	74,189	155,385	-	229,574	199,837
Total expenditure		**74,189**	**155,385**	**-**	**229,574**	**199,837**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		89,374	(16,301)	-	73,073	12,340
Transfers between funds	16	25,865	(25,865)	-	-	
Net movement in funds		**115,239**	**(42,166)**	**-**	**73,073**	**12,340**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	12	144,972	64,583	-	209,555	197,215
Total funds carried forward	12	**260,211**	**22,417**	**-**	**282,628**	**209,555**

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Postion

as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	9	3,211		15,167	
Cash at bank and In hand	10	310,221		200,933	
Total current assets		313,432		216,100	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	30,804		6,545	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			282,628		209,555
Total net assets			282,628		209,555
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	14		22,417		64,583
Unrestricted funds	15		260,211		144,972
Total charity funds	17		282,628		209,555

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Louise Robinson

Louise Robinson
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1	107,415	(30,105)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		1,873	36
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		1,873	36
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		109,288	(30,069)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	200,933	231,002
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	**310,221**	**200,933**

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	2023	2022
	£	£
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	73,073	12,340
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,873)	(36)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	11,956	(12,000)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	24,259	(30,406)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**107,415**	**(30,105)**

	2023	2022
	£	£
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	310,221	200,933
Total cash and cash equivalents	**310,221**	**200,933**

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)'.

b) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

c) the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the defination of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue,and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are funds received which have no restrictions placed on their use and are available as general funds.

Designated Funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net incoming resources

	2023	2022
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service	1,600	1,600
Independent Examiner's fees - other services	624	624
Trustees' emoluments	-	-

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	14,085	-	14,085	26,208
Crowdfunding	1,771	-	1,771	11,118
Donations - organisations	13,959	-	13,959	11,894
Grants	58,850	139,084	197,934	78,484
Hosting - general	(333)	-	(333)	12,960
	88,332	139,084	227,416	140,664

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership - individuals	600	-	600	4,149
LBTH SLA	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course Fees	15,551	-	15,551	23,748
Corporate days	25,307	-	25,307	11,680
	73,358	-	73,358	71,477

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Interest received	1,873	-	1,873	36
	1,873	-	1,873	36

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Repairs & maintenance	1,698	14,163	15,861	127
Park access devel & maint	11,090	2,117	13,207	15,831
Lodge	571	16,864	17,435	699
Plants	1,387	3,699	5,086	6,260
Tools & accessories	1,388	1,836	3,224	659
Volunteers - hospitality	440	246	686	611
Events	11,124	6,370	17,494	6,860
Green waste	3,826	-	3,826	480
Professional tree surgery	-	560	560	-
Teaching materials	-	164	164	13
Biodiversity professionals	2,962	-	2,962	3,052
Publicity - general	88	773	861	110
Heritage	(111)	15,274	15,163	5,993
Staff costs	14,015	89,089	103,104	120,372
Recuitment & training	1,359	30	1,389	457
Soanes office space	6,286	-	6,286	5,000
Legal and professional fees	-	3,150	3,150	15,479
Office running costs	13,928	1,050	14,978	13,836
Insurance - other	1,525	-	1,525	1,188
Interest paid	14	-	14	82
Bank charges	189	-	189	204
Accountancy fees	2,410	-	2,410	2,524
	74,189	155,385	229,574	199,837

7 Staff costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff salaries	94,855	109,651
Staff social security	5,216	7,064
Staff pensions	3,033	3,657
	103,104	120,372
Average number of employees during the year was:	3	4

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or their associates for services as a trustee during the year ended 31 March 2023 nor to 31 March 2022.

Employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the current year and previous year:	None	None

8 Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture & fixtures	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2022	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2023	5,597	727	6,324
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2022	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2023	5,597	727	6,324
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2023	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2022	-	-	-

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating debtors	-	12,168
Staff loans	2,904	2,797
Prepayments	307	202
	3,211	15,167

10 Bank and cash in hand

	2023	2022
	£	£
CAF current account	4,039	4,940
CAF reserve account	304,781	194,169
PayPal account	831	1,475
Petty Cash	570	349
	310,221	200,933

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
PAYE/NIC	5,479	-
Pensions	2,994	1,890
Accruals	22,331	4,655
	30,804	6,545

12 The funds of the charity: current year

	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	64,583	139,084	(155,385)	(25,865)	22,417
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	144,972	163,563	(74,189)	25,865	260,211
	209,555	302,647	(229,574)	-	282,628

13 The funds of the charity: prior year

	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	89,191	67,599	(92,207)	-	64,583
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	108,024	144,578	(107,630)	-	144,972
	197,215	212,177	(199,837)	-	209,555

14 Restricted funds: current period

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
CMS Social Impact	2,500	-	-	(2,500)	-
Cultural Recovery fund	3,800	-	-	(3,800)	-
East End Emergency	4,579	-	-	(4,579)	-
Fairfoot	46,170	30,000	70,170	-	6,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000	675	(19,325)	-
Heritage Fund	(2,331)	48,684	46,353	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	(3,028)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000	16,864	6,864	-
Our Space	-	-	1,219	1,219	-
Pilgrim Trust	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Radcliffe Trust	6,837	-	4,387	-	2,450
Small grants	-	-	96	96	-
St George's Town Hall	-	20,400	5,621	(812)	13,966
	64,583	139,084	155,385	(25,865)	22,417

15 Restricted funds: prior period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Cheshire Community	5,478	-	5,478	-	-
CMS Social Impact	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Cultural Recovery fund	-	12,200	8,400	-	3,800
D'Oyly Carte	-	3,500	3,500	-	-
East End Emergency	595	3,984	-	-	4,579
Fairfoot	34,120	35,000	22,949	-	46,170
Heritage Fund	31,692	-	34,023	-	(2,331)
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
National Lottery Community Fund	2,715	-	2,715	-	-
Our Space	-	3,500	3,500	-	-
Radcliffe Trust	-	6,915	78	-	6,837
Small grants	2,980	-	2,980	-	-
TFL	4,604	-	4,604	-	-
Tower Hill Trust	1,980	-	1,980	-	-
Tree of Hope	2,000	-	2,000	-	-
	89,192	67,599	92,207	-	64,583

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financed by restricted funds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

Cheshire Community	To care and improve Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and other vital greenspaces in the borough to improve local health and wellbeing, the local environment, understanding of the area's history and community cohesion, through twice monthly nature-based sessions such as therapeutic gardening and nature walks.
CMS Social Impact	To create a customer management system via Salesforce.
Cultural Recovery fund	Staff and event costs to help replace lost revenue.
East End Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support additional equipment and PPE costs to allow our work to continue.
Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Garfield Weston Foundation	Supports actions around CMP (monuments, Lodge), build history and heritage offering through actvities and events.
Heritage Fund	To hire a Heritage Officer to develop a community-led conservation, management and maintenance plan for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park over 2 years. In doing so, the heritage of THCP will be accessible to a wider range of people.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
National Lottery Community Fund	Funding to support development of the Cemetery Park Lodge to house office and visitor space.
Our Space	Funding for scoping and planting green corridor walking and biddiversity routes connecting the Cemetery Park to locale and Lea Valley.
Pilgrim Trust	Funding to support the delivery of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), specifically preservation/management of monuments and architectural features of significance.
Radcliffe Trust	Funds to provide greenwood working courses for disadvantaged communities.
Small grants	Establishing an "Elder Trees" community group for the over 60s for two-hour sessions, once per week (37 in total). Sessions would include activities such as sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, nature crafts, wild foods, planting and bird spotting.
St George's Town Hall	Community development contribution for the redevelopment of St George's green space, planting and labour, to extend local access and biodiversity corridors.

16 Transfers between funds: current period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
Restricted to general	25,865		(25,865)		-
	25,865	-	(25,865)	-	-

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

17 Net assets attributable to funds: current period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	291,015	-	22,417	-	313,432
Current liabilities	(30,804)	-	-	-	(30,804)
Net assets represented by funds	260,211	-	22,417	-	282,628

18 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	151,517	-	64,583	-	216,100
Current liabilities	(6,545)	-	-	-	(6,545)
Net assets represented by funds	144,972	-	64,583	-	209,555

19 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

20 Post balance sheet events

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

21 Pension commitments

The charity contributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

		2023		2022
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:	£	2,994	£	1,890

22 Contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2023 nor at 31 March 2022.

23 Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

24 Transactions with trustees

There were no material transactions with the trustees during the year.

25 Gifts in kind and volunteers

During the year the charitable company benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

26 Major funders

In accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	*Project name / Purpose of*		
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	*Park maintenance and litter picking*	£	31,900

27 Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is an award-winning charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park.

The site includes one of the historic 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian-era London cemeteries and adjoining areas including Scrapyard Meadow and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink.

Collectively, the 31-acre Local Nature Reserve is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and London's most central urban woodland.

Address: Cemetery Park Lodge, Southern Grove, Mile End, London, E3 4PX

www.fothcp.org

www.fothcp.org
@fothcp

Registered Charity No. 1107136
Registered Company No : 5233566

THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1107136

Accounts



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Annual report and accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2022

ww.fothcp.org
Registered Charity No. 1107136
Registered Company No. 5233566



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Green Flag Awards 2021

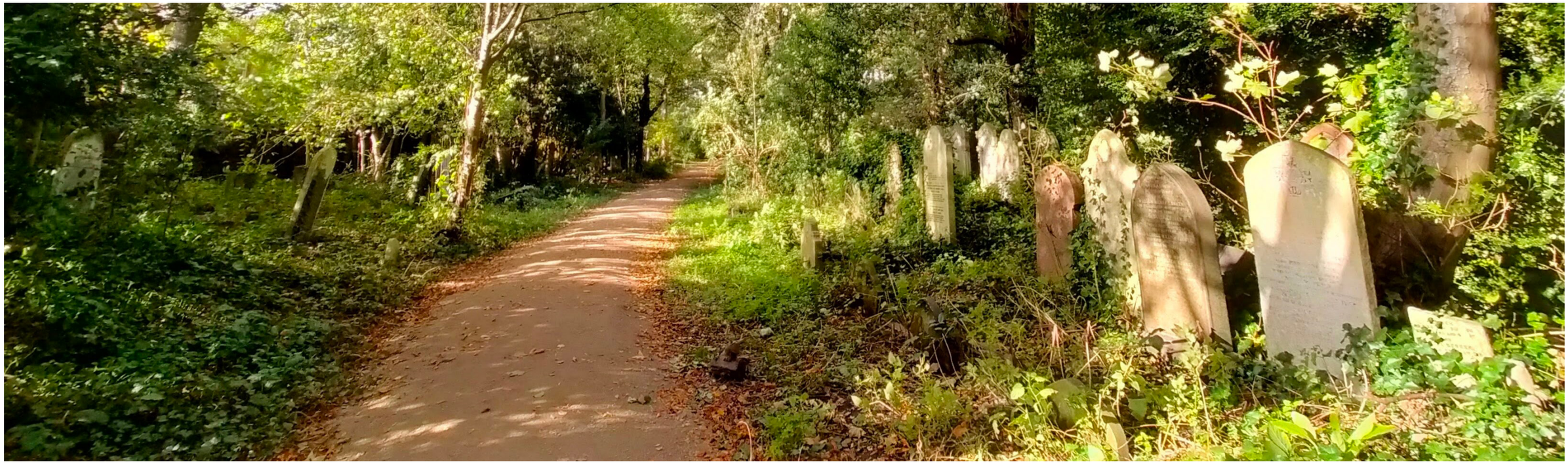
Community Winner

London in Bloom Awards 2021

Large Conservation – ***Gold***

Heritage Park/Garden of the Year – ***Gold***

Large Cemetery - ***Gold***



From the Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees

Like many, we had been hopeful that the pandemic would disappear, but sadly the challenges continued. Fortunately, we had weathered last year's challenges well and we have emerged from this period in a strong position.

I'm incredibly thankful to the staff, volunteers, partners and all who have continued to support the FoTHCP. It is not an exaggeration that these contributions are critical to the survival of our organisation. As events and volunteering were resumed and ceased in line with regulations, many worked hard to keep the site management up to scratch and continued with online events to continue to connect with and inspire the community. I'd like to say a special thank you to Terry Lyle for freely sharing his experience and knowledge, and to Diane Kendall for being a driving force in keeping the heritage and history of the Cemetery Park alive. I'd like to particularly thank and recognise Fran Humber, who has stepped down as Chair of the Board, for her huge contributions to the FoTHCP over her tenure, and especially against the additional challenges that the pandemic has brought. Fran's guidance and drive has directly contributed to the FoTHCP being so well placed to take on new projects such as delivering the Conservation Management Plan.

The pandemic has vividly highlighted to me the value that Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park has for so many in the local area. Tower Hamlets has one of the highest population densities in the country with a housing mix skewed towards flats with minimal green space. Many visitors have shared with me that the Cemetery Park was a lifeline for them during these turbulent times; allowing them to escape to a green space where they can enjoy a brief moment of respite. For me, this makes the hard work of the FoTHCP so worthwhile and I know that many of our staff and volunteers feel the same way.

We have also developed and stewarded additional sites in the area including Fairfoot Road pocket park. Such spaces give us new ways to connect with the wider local community, and provide essential corridors for non-human populations to survive and thrive. The main historic Cemetery Park site remains our top focus, and we have begun efforts to develop our Conservation Management Plan (CMP), a really important milestone in our stewardship of the site. The CMP will allow us to be better able to document, celebrate and share the inherent heritage of the site – from its monuments and pathways to its stories. We've been especially pleased to see such high levels of interest and engagement from the local community and stakeholders in this major initiative.

Like many in the community, we were all incredibly saddened at the death of Ranjith Kankanamalage in the Cemetery Park in August. The site was closed for over two weeks as the police conducted their investigations. I was proud of all staff and volunteers who worked to reassure the community at this very difficult time. We remain committed to making the site a welcoming and safe space for all in our community.

Sadly the pandemic has impeded our ticketed events calendar and the number of corporate groups we could welcome, which has had an impact on revenues. The ongoing forecast for many small charities such as ours has somewhat improved, but we are working hard to 'catch up'. We also acknowledge that amid the wider landscape there is increased competition for funding. The inflationary pressures experienced at the moment, may also make cost control challenging. Accordingly, we are thankful for the financial and in-kind support we have been given by so many donors, fundraisers and organisations.

We very much look forward to 'what's next' for the site we all love so much.

Toby
Interim Chair of the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

From the Cemetery Park Manager

It will come as no surprise to anyone that the past year has still been very challenging for those involved in managing and maintaining the Cemetery Park. I am immensely proud of how everyone has risen to this challenge - from developing new ways of working and keeping in touch, to maintaining support where needed. Everyone has done their best to keep a sense of community and to combat the isolation all of us have felt at some time or other during the past year.

April 2021 saw many restrictions being eased. As people's lives returned to 'normal' we saw a slight drop in the use of the Cemetery Park for the first time since the start of the pandemic. In line with government guidance, we were able to increase the number of community volunteering sessions we offered and also welcome some corporate groups back. These (very-welcome!) sets of hands allowed us to catch up on and improve the care of the Cemetery Park beyond the 'essentials' we'd been able to cover with a reduced team. In particular, we welcomed many corporate volunteer teams in Autumn who contributed to the site care before activities were again ceased as the Omicron variant struck.

The Hands-on Heritage volunteering sessions have proved to be very popular, along with a new calendar of activities with a heritage and history theme, showing there is strong interest in these topics as well as the more conservation and nature-focused activities. Beyond these, our Heritage Officer, Claire, has led the exciting development of our very-first Conservation Management Plan. This has involved extensive consultation with community, park users and stakeholders to inform short- and long-term projects. The CMP will help the FoTHCP to better document and understand the existing heritage within the site, establish a framework for future work within the site, and improve our visitor and community offering and experience. It was originally commissioned as part of National Heritage Lottery Funding for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (THCP), secured by the FoTHCP. The FoTHCP have subsequently sought additional support, including from The Pilgrim Trust and its own reserves.

Michelle, our Community Outreach Co-ordinator who ran our Nature & Us programme, left us in July 2021 and went on to a social prescribing role. Her three years with us were extremely fruitful and we're grateful to all the new links and partners we made because of her. She'll be missed and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

The grant we were awarded by Tower Hamlets Council in 2020 to develop the small area of derelict land to the south-east of the Cemetery Park continues. Two years into the Fairfoot Woods project, we see the site is maturing into a very pleasant place. It's well used by local residents and visitors and we've received much positive feedback. In 2022 we will add a new footpath and gateway into the site, as well as seating, signage and bins. These additional green spaces outside of the historic Cemetery Park walls, including the Ackroyd Drive Greenlink, form part of a valuable green corridor heading east out to the Lea Valley, supporting wider conservation and bio-diversity efforts.

During the peak of the pandemic, we continued to host nature focused online events offering the possibility to the public to explore the park and how its flora changes through the seasons. Into 2022, and as concerns around coronavirus have eased, we have carefully increased our calendar of events and activities. We are looking forward to welcoming new and familiar visitors to the site as we continue to share the fascinating heritage and nature of the Cemetery Park.

See you there!

Ken
Cemetery Park Manager

Mission & Values

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park ("Friends", "FoTHCP")

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. This woodland cemetery is a unique place of transformation: a people's cemetery, a sanctuary for humans as well as nature, a place for festivals, field studies and forest schools. Always changing with the seasons, it is rooted in the history of ordinary people, a place of rich heritage that is full of possibilities and freedom for all.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is an award-winning local charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park. Founded in 1990, our skilled staff and volunteers across nature and heritage bring energy, knowledge and vision to the shape and future of the site for the benefit of all who use it.

We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and maintain and develop it for enjoyment, remembrance and learning for everyone. We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement and understanding of its local history; support local health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion.

Each year we provide hundreds of free activities and volunteer opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

Our Mission

We work to install an ethos of freedom in the Cemetery Park as a people-centric charity, exploring history, improving mental wellbeing and managing the woodland and meadows in as light a way as possible.

Our Values

1
Growth

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

2
Freedom

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

3
Friendship

We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.

4
Openness

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.

Strategic Reports

Nature & Conservation

The historic space within the Cemetery Park walls has become a haven for nature and conservation, and many of the visitors and event participants marvel at the 'sanctuary' feel within the site. The Conservation Management Plan also documents the historic planting and tree lines within the Cemetery Park and will be a useful reference point for the FoTHCP. We have also worked to coppice the self-sown sycamores, several of which have supplied the materials for the new green woodworking courses, and to reinstate a wider diversity of trees. We will also be looking at light and the tree canopy, in particular its support or detriment to bio diversity. This will be particularly important as we monitor and respond to the impact of the Bow Gasworks development which we expect to block natural light within the Cemetery Park.

In addition to the main Cemetery Park site, we have continued to develop Ackroyd Drive and Fairfoot Woods as two additional spaces for residents and the local community to enjoy nature. In 2021, we secured a small additional grant that will enable us to extend the green corridor up to the Lea Valley and provide numerous 'pocket park' spaces to encourage biodiversity. We also planted a new wildflower meadow at Shandy Park with the support of Groundwork, which continues on from the great work begun as part of the *Nature & Us* project.

Our plans for the development of the Cemetery Park were curtailed a little by the ongoing impact of the pandemic, but we continued to be on top of seasonal planting, coppicing, and reducing the volume of the more dominant/invasive species in order to encourage more diversity.

In the plant world, summer 2021 produced the fifth Pyramid Orchid we've ever seen in the Park. Orchid seeds are minute, often a million per gram. They can be blown great distances, need great good fortune to survive and mature, and take years to flower.

Biodiversity

We're thankful for the efforts and expertise of Mark Patterson, Gino Brignoli and Edward Milner in surveying solitary bees, beetles, spiders and other small creatures. Biodiversity is an important indicator of the health of the site, and we are mindful that our actions can have a very real impact on the populations that we share the site with.

We acknowledge that our research can only 'scratch the surface', and is limited to the hours that our observers can work (and indeed them being in the right place at the right time). We also struggle to research the canopy levels of the woodlands. That said, we are excited to have made a number of notable discoveries including some species seen for the first time within the site (or indeed London).

Butterflies are by far the most studied and most readily observed insects. But even larger and more conspicuous butterflies are only recorded if there's an observer. For instance, Silver-washed Fritillaries were recorded every year from 2005 to the present day, with the exception of 2016. We can be quite sure they were present in 2016 and that males and females found each other, as they are equipped to do so.

On the other hand, we were incredibly excited by a 'needle-in-a-haystack' discovery in April 2021. The strange insect in a half-curled leaf turned out to be a rather rare species of UK-native **sawfly**, whose larvae feed on honeysuckle. Neither of the two UK species had ever been recorded in the London area, and sawfly expert, Andrew Green, identified it as *Abia aenea* (Honeysuckle Sawfly), which is the nationally scarcer of these two species. Such a find strongly suggests that we have a population, and it's part of a wider London population, but they remain elusive.

Sawflies are in the insect order Hymenoptera, whose more familiar members are bees, wasps and ants. We've seen a few species of sawfly in the Park but there are certainly many more we have not encountered. The most readily found are the larvae of Allantus cistus, which often defoliate the small wild rose bushes in early summer.

Throughout 2021, 1997 **spiders** were collected by pitfall-traps, representing 60 species, with a further 8 species identified by search and sweep-nets. These numbers are almost identical to the prior year in terms of numbers and numbers of species. Yet again, the total count of pioneer spiders continues to fall, which is an excellent sign of the ecological health of the Cemetery Park. As habitats mature species richness increases, so therefore pioneer species numbers would be expected to reduce. A full report on the results of 13 years of pitfall-trapping spiders from 2009 to 2021 will appear in the upcoming edition of the *London Naturalist*.

This year three species of spider were added to the list, although of these only one was really new. A single female of the tiny orange six-eyed spider *Oonops pulcher* was trapped at Lodge Graves in May 2021. This species is easily overlooked and is probably substantially under-recorded with only 9 localities recorded in the London/Middlesex area, and none of these west of Hammersmith. *Pholcus phalangioides*, the 'Daddy-long-legs-spider' is common indoors, especially throughout the Soanes Centre(!), though is only recorded officially for the first time in 2021. Lastly, the tiny hunter spider, *Micaria micans*, was recorded: previously it was thought that Micaria specimens recorded were the common *M. pulicaria* as the species are difficult to differentiate, but new indicators have been published and careful examination of specimens from various London sites has revealed that they are all *M. micans*.



The spider fauna of London is changing quite rapidly and other new finds are likely to turn up: *Anyphaena numida*, a third species of buzzing spider first recorded in Britain in 2017 has been spreading rapidly and is already recorded from seven London sites – but not, so far in the Cemetery Park.

Sadly we report that the **beetle** recording has ceased owing to the serious illness of Norman Heal. We hope his health improves, and we hope to resume our studies. One new beetle species was found – a small brown jewel beetle, *Agrilus cuprescens*, a new arrival in Britain first recorded in 2008 and confirmed by Dr. Brian Levey at the National Museum of Wales.

As part of the by-catch in the pitfall traps, **centipedes** are now being separated and sent to an expert for identification. Although none of those caught so far are particularly uncommon, so far 8 different species have been found in the Cemetery Park, including two species of the tiny *Lithobius*, another small delicate species *Schendyla nemorensis*, as well as several larger centipedes of the genera *Geophilus* and *Lithobius*. Both sexes of the longest British centipede *Haplophilus subterraneus* (up to 7 cm) have been trapped, and another more delicate long species *Henia vesuviana*. Some other very small centipedes have been seen but not yet caught and this list is likely to grow.

Some new **invertebrate** groups have been added to informal surveys over the last year including millipedes and mirid bugs. Over 27 survey days I recorded 236 invertebrate species the majority of which were Diptera (true flies) comprising 24% of all recorded species. These were closely followed by Hymenoptera (bees, wasps and ants) at 20%, Hemiptera (true bugs) at 16%, and Coleoptera (beetles) at 13%. THCP remains an excellent site for Rambur's Pied *Shieldbug Tritomegas sexmaculatus* which first arrived in Britain in 2011 and the nationally scarce Large Scabious Mining Bee *Andrena hattorfiana*. On 18 July I recorded the first record of the nationally rare flat-footed fly *Agathomyia collini* in Tower Hamlets and the vice county of Middlesex in Sanctuary Wood.



Heritage

It has been a busy year for heritage within the Cemetery Park. The newly-created Heritage Officer staff role has enabled us to support a stronger calendar of heritage-focused events and brings in new expertise into the site. Despite some restrictions on our activities due to Covid, we have still hosted over 40 heritage events and activities over the year. Over 700 people joined events in-person from guided tours, information sessions and creative heritage crafts workshops. We attracted a diverse range of participants including students and academics (UCL History Society, Society of Genealogists), schools and youth groups, older people's groups and LGBT family groups. We also welcomed attendees from the USA, Canada, Peru, India, Bangladesh, Somalia and across Europe.

Our online events also proved popular, with up to 100 participants at each, and attracted a similarly broad range of attendees. Topics of interest range from the history of the Cemetery Park to family history workshops, and an academic discussion on death and Victorian culture.

We also launched a new 'Hands-On Heritage' volunteering group which has welcomed around 80 people from the local community who have worked within the Cemetery Park site, helped to reveal ivy-covered monuments - some of which have not been seen for over 20 years, recorded grave inscriptions for family enquiries, and supported surveys of our historic landscape and significant monuments. These volunteers are also contributing to new tours and significant stories emerging from the site.

The Heritage research team have also continued to meet at least monthly, collectively contributing over 1,000 hours of volunteer time. The team met either online or in hybrid meetings as COVID-19 restrictions allowed, contending with restricted access to archive and record offices.

In September we celebrated the 180th Anniversary of the Cemetery Park (to the day). Sadly these celebrations were rather more subdued than the 170th owing to ongoing restrictions, but we were nonetheless pleased to mark the occasion as part of the London-wide Open House 2021.

In November we joined a 2-day virtual conference, hosted by the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe: *Cemetourism: Cemeteries with Stories to Tell*. It was heartening to share insights, perspectives and challenges with cemeteries across Europe, and to learn more about visitor experience and tourism within these historic sites.

As the 2020 Remembrance Service had been cancelled due to the pandemic, our 2021 service had special significance. We were delighted to welcome back Trustees, local Councillors, Cadets from the 24 Cadet Detachment (The Rifles), Scouts from 4th and 23rd Poplar, as well as members of the local community. We would like to give special thanks to Reverend Peter Turner, who kindly stepped in at the last minute to take the service.

Looking to the future of heritage within the Cemetery Park, in addition to continuing to build on our volunteering and events programmes, we have been hard at work putting together our first Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The CMP marks the start of an exciting new chapter for our organisation with opportunities to both safeguard and reinvigorate the site for future generations and better celebrate both heritage and nature within the site. The CMP will inform our work for the next 30 years, spanning restoration, preservation and new initiatives.

Community & Partners

Visitors

We are pleased that as the pandemic eased, we have been able to welcome visitors and the community back into the Cemetery Park and our additional sites. We have also managed to restart volunteering and launch some new events and volunteering opportunities. This is so important as:

- ***95%*** of event attendees say they learn something new at our events,
- ***85%*** feel more connected to their community through our events,
- ***87%*** felt that events and activities improve their mental health and wellbeing, and
- ***97%*** are likely or very likely to return to an event in the future.

We are especially committed to diversity, openness and inclusion, and are proud that our events and activities reflect this. We are also embedding this as a key component of the Conservation Management Plan, particularly around physical and virtual accessibility. We are also eager to host free / affordable events where possible so that there are no barriers to participation.



Volunteers

As a small organisation, we simply could not survive without the efforts of our volunteers. From opening or closing the gates to litterpicking, from seasonal planting to coppicing and clearing, and from heritage grave enquiries to nature monitoring, with everything else in between, we are appreciative for all these efforts. We are also eager to ensure that volunteers can learn new skills and benefit from an increased sense of community when they are on site.

Corporates

We were able to welcome corporate volunteering groups back into the site to help us 'catch up' on some of the work which was disrupted due to the pandemic as well as kick-start some new projects. Some highlights include:

Copy to come:
Hendi autem et delecte maiorios re, ut invella borupta tionseque aut aut voles audi aped quo occate mint acesti omnime pratem dolendunt quia quidebi tiorum hario eati dolenetur mi, et qui dolorrum quatur, nos ex et qui te num experibus eatemporrum intur ad et et liquias

Donors & Fundraising

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Hendi autem et delecte maiorios re, ut invella borupta tionseque aut aut voles audi aped quo occate mint acesti omnime pratem dolendunt quia quidebi tiorum hario eati dolenetur mi, et qui dolorrum quatur, nos ex et qui te num experibus eatemporrum intur ad et et liquias

Members

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The Future

The next year holds great promise for the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park; along with the prospect of a lot of hard work!

Our plans for the next year include:

Conservation & nature

- Ongoing maintenance and grounds-keeping as we recover from the lingering effects of the pandemic
- Finalising regeneration and improvements to sites outside of the Cemetery Park walls - i.e. Ackroyd Drive, Fairfoot Road and pocket parks
- Continuing to encourage and nurture biodiversity within the site across flora and fauna.

Heritage & history

- Continuing to develop and integrate our heritage activities driven by the Heritage Officer, including volunteering and events
- Finalising the development of the Conversation Management Plan and establishing a framework to initiate projects which celebrate our heritage
- Develop a proposal to redesign the civilian war memorial in the Cemetery-Park working with local architects and other stakeholders

People & community

- Continuing to engage and support the local and wider community as they enjoy the unique space that is Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
- Continuing to offer meaningful and engaging activities in the Cemetery Park that support the needs of all visitors
- Rebuilding our corporate volunteer and fundraising bases back to pre-pandemic levels
- Identifying options to make better use of the Lodge building, including fundraising to realise those improvements.

Governance

- Continuing to build capacity within the FoTHCP through staff, trustees and other key volunteers. This includes project and programme management capabilities to support the delivery of the Conservation Management Plan
- Continuing to refresh and update our policies and procedures, including addressing maintenance and restoration efforts with a focus on risk management and health and safety
- Continuing to build our financial sustainability through recovering pre-pandemic income streams and engaging with Tower Hamlets Council to review the existing Service Level Agreement.







Statutory information

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (registered company number 5233566) and is a charity registered in England and Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission. It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Frances Humber, defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company has 340 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within our articles as agreed by the trustees. The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and the Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees set the strategic direction and ensure the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission. It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis. **The Board of Trustees is comprised of 11 Trustees as of 30th March 2022 and met four times during the year.** It is also supported by a group of trustees and volunteers who support with fundraising, policy updates, research and other organisational activities.

Recruitment and appointment of members and trustees

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 2 trustees and are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected Trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New Trustees are formally appointed at the AGM. The trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such postholders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

Risk management

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the board.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities. The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

- That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;
- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.



Trustees

The Trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Toby Sibley (Chair)
Fran Humber (Chair)
Terry Lyle (Vice Chair)
Louise Robinsone (Vice Chair)
Jasmina Negrini
Karen Baxter
Colin Wiseman (Treasurer)
Marilyn Baltutis
Diane Kendall
Doreen Kendall
Sigrid Werner
Sally Randall
Guy Mitchell
Diane Gibb

Financial review

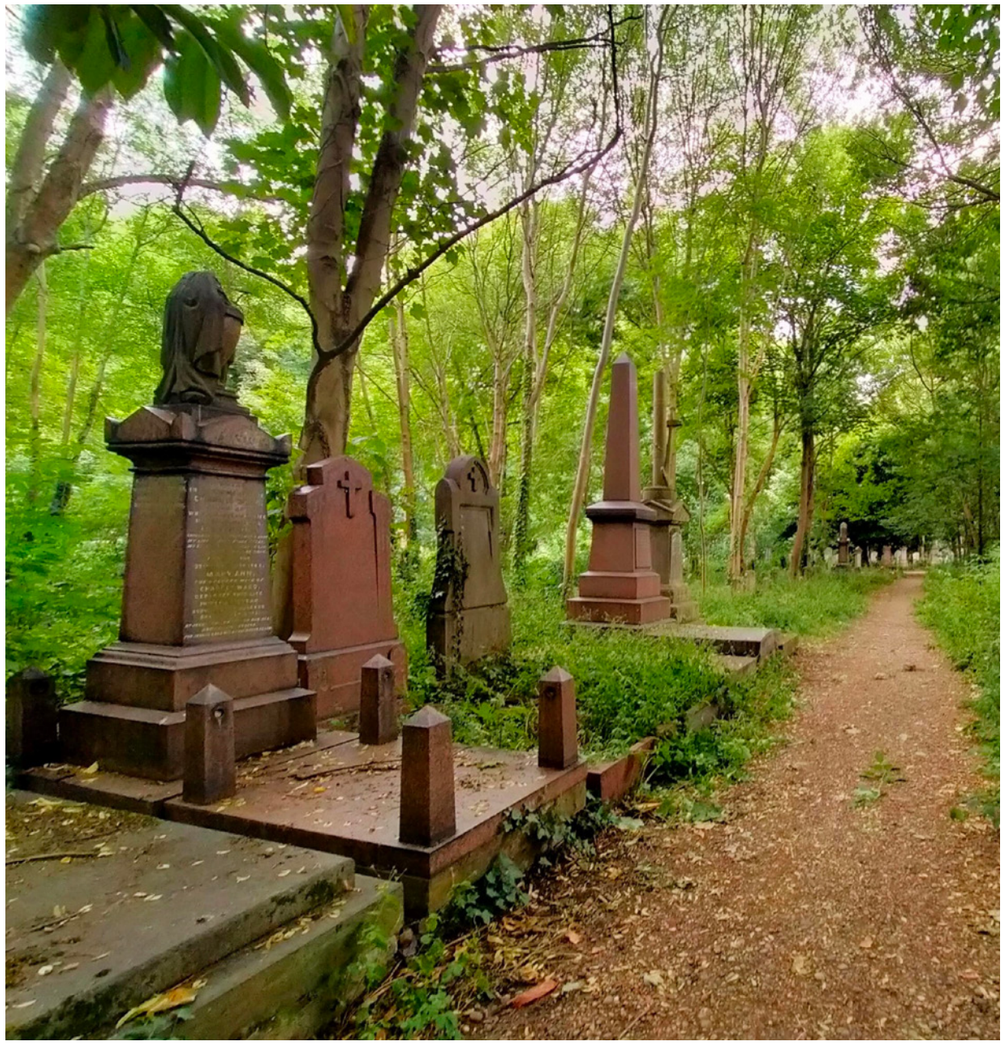
Total income for the year amounted to £238,794 (2020: £221,796). There was a slight increase from 2020 due to a number of successful grants to emergency Covid-19 funds as well as our Crowdfunding efforts. This year we had to rely more heavily on grants and individual donations to replace lost income streams from corporate group donations and event income. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £189,511 (2020: £162,662) which has slightly increased due to the addition of a fourth staff member. Expenditure was also kept to a minimum where possible due to unknown likelihood of being able to replace lost income. Our key concern is to continue to be able to maintain our staff levels, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP.

Results of the year

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements. The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure for the year of £49,283 and a total of £197,215 being carried forward (of which £108,024 is unrestricted). Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity Fixed assets are set out in Note 9 to the accounts.

Reserves policy

The charity receives a modest Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The rest of the costs of the Cemetery Park are covered by the FoTHCP' fundraising via charitable activities and grants.



The support costs of the FoTHCP are pared to the minimum and the costs of maintaining the site are very carefully managed. The charity's method of estimating the appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of the core work. In doing so, the trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped).

FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of **£92,045** as follows:

Core operating costs (6 months) £80,045
Contingency costs (3 months) £12,000
Total: £92,045

The current unrestricted reserves stand at **£108,024** so we are currently meeting our reserve requirement. Given the uncertainty of funding and income in the next financial year, it is likely our reserves will be reduced and not exceed our target within a few months. However, the optimum level of reserves is reviewed on an ongoing basis and at minimum once a year and may increase next year due to additional staff members and increasing operating costs.



Statement of trustee responsibilities
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:
- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

Independent examiner
The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Park 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2021.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:
Toby Sibley
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Financial statements

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 26 to 36.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 22 - 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner
of Armstrong & Co
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

4a Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

Dated: 5 September 2022

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Activities
incorporating the income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	73,065	67,599	-	140,664	185,500
Charitable activities	4	71,477	-	-	71,477	52,919
Investments	5	36	-	-	36	83
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	292
Total income		**144,578**	**67,599**	**-**	**212,177**	**238,794**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	107,630	92,207	-	199,837	189,511
Total expenditure		**107,630**	**92,207**	**-**	**199,837**	**189,511**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		36,948	(24,608)	-	12,340	49,283
Net movement in funds		**36,948**	**(24,608)**	**-**	**12,340**	**49,283**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	13	108,024	89,191	-	197,215	147,932
Total funds carried forward	13	**144,972**	**64,583**	**-**	**209,555**	**197,215**

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.
The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.
The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Postion
as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	31 March 2022 £	£	31 March 2021 £	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	10	15,167		3,167	
Cash at bank and In hand	11	200,933		231,002	
Total current assets		216,100		234,169	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	6,545		36,954	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			209,555		197,215
Total net assets			209,555		197,215
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	15		64,583		89,191
Unrestricted funds	15		144,972		108,024
Total charity funds	17		209,555		197,215

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Toby Sibley
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1	(30,105)	66,704
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		36	83
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		36	83
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(30,069)	66,787
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2	231,002	164,215
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2	**200,933**	**231,002**

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

	2022 £	2021 £
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	12,340	49,283
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(36)	(83)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(12,000)	1,931
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(30,409)	15,578
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**(30,105)**	**66,704**

	2022 £	2021 £
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	200,933	231,002
Total cash and cash equivalents	**200,933**	**231,002**

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)'.

b) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

c) the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity
The charitable company meets the defination of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue,and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition
Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.
Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Deferred income
Income received which is contractually or otherwise not expendable until a future period is deferred to the period in which it meets the criteria for income recognition.

Restricted Funds
Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Tangible Fixed Assets
Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service	1,600	1,440
Independent Examiner's fees - other services	624	480
Trustees' emoluments	-	-

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	26,208	-	26,208	26,332
Crowdfunding	11,118	-	11,118	41,390
Donations - organisations	11,894	-	11,894	3,794
Grants	10,885	67,599	78,484	110,344
Hosting - general	12,960	-	12,960	3,640
	73,065	67,599	140,664	185,500

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership - individuals	4,149	-	4,149	4,808
LBTH SLA	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course Fees	23,748	-	23,748	10,867
Corporate days	11,680	-	11,680	5,344
	71,477	-	71,477	52,919

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Interest received	36	-	36	83
	36	-	36	83

6 Other other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Other income	-	-	-	292
	-	-	-	292

7 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Repairs & maintenance	127	-	127	614
Park access devel & maint	8,639	7,192	15,831	15,478
Lodge	699	-	699	8,825
Plants	3,374	2,885	6,259	2,000
Tools & accessories	470	190	660	1,915
Volunteers - hospitality	611	-	611	427
Events	6,234	625	6,859	4,166
Green waste	-	480	480	3,589
Teaching materials	13	-	13	-
Biodiversity professionals	3,052	-	3,052	2,962
Publicity - general	94	16	110	675
Heritage	5,982	11	5,993	(270)
Staff costs	63,291	57,080	120,371	119,796
Recuitment & training	458	-	458	531
Soanes office space	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Provision for bad debts	-	-	-	(1,440)
Legal and professional fees	8,218	7,262	15,480	8,996
Office running costs	(2,630)	16,466	13,836	13,006
Insurance - other	1,188	-	1,188	1,049
Interest paid	82	-	82	-
Bank charges	204	-	204	112
Accountancy fees	2,524	-	2,524	2,080
	107,630	92,207	199,837	189,511

8 Staff costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff salaries	109,651	109,444
Staff social security	7,064	6,759
Staff pensions	3,657	3,593
	120,371	119,796
Average number of employees during the year was:	4	4

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or their associates for services as a trustee during the year ended 31 March 2022 nor to 31 March 2021.

Employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the current year and previous year:	None	None

9 Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture & fixtures	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2021	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2022	5,597	727	6,324
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2021	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2022	5,597	727	6,324
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2022	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	-	-	-

10 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating debtors	12,168	2,988
Staff loans	2,797	2
Prepayments	202	177
	15,167	3,167

11 Bank and cash in hand	2022	2021
	£	£
CAF reserve account	194,169	224,899
CAF current account	4,940	4,124
PayPal account	1,475	1,541
Petty Cash	349	438
	200,933	231,002

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
PAYE/NIC	-	14,220
Pensions	1,890	2,151
Accruals	4,655	12,608
Deferred income	-	7,975
	6,545	36,954

13 The funds of the charity: current year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	89,191	67,599	(92,207)	-	64,583
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	108,024	144,578	(107,630)	-	144,972
	197,215	212,177	(199,837)	-	209,555

14 The funds of the charity: prior year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	69,111	66,444	(47,160)	796	89,191
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	78,821	172,350	(142,351)	(796)	108,024
	147,932	238,794	(189,511)	-	197,215

15 Restricted funds: current period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Cheshire Community	5,478	-	5,478	-	-
CMS Social Impact	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Cultural Recovery fund	-	12,200	8,400	-	3,800
D'Oyly Carte	-	3,500	3,500	-	-
East End Emergency	595	3,984	-	-	4,579
Fairfoot	34,120	35,000	22,949	-	46,170
Heritage Fund	31,692	-	34,023	-	(2,331)
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
London Dock community	2,715	-	2,715	-	-
Ocean regeneration	-	3,500	3,500	-	-
Radcliffe Trust	-	6,915	78	-	6,837
Small grants	2,980	-	2,980	-	-
TFL	4,604	-	4,604	-	-
Tower Hill Trust	1,980	-	1,980	-	-
Tree of Hope	2,000	-	2,000	-	-
	89,191	67,599	92,207	-	64,583

16 Restricted funds: prior period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Cheshire Community	-	5,478	-	-	5,478
East End Emergency	-	1,228	633	-	595
Fairfoot	-	35,000	774	(106)	34,120
Groundwork	4,064	-	4,244	180	-
Heritage Emergency	-	18,600	18,600	-	-
Heritage Fund	49,130	-	17,438	-	31,692
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
London Dock community	-	2,715	-	-	2,715
Small grants	5,000	-	2,020	-	2,980
TFL	4,910	-	306	-	4,604
Tower Hill Trust	1,980	-	-	-	1,980
Tree of Hope	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Veolia	999	1,423	3,144	722	-
	69,111	66,444	47,160	796	89,191

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financed by restricted funds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

Cheshire Community	To care and improve Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and other vital greenspaces in the borough to improve local health and wellbeing, the local environment, understanding of the area's history and community cohesion, through twice monthly nature-based sessions such as therapeutic gardening and nature walks.
CMS Social Impact	To create a customer management system via Salesforce.
Cultural Recovery fund	Staff and event costs to help replace lost revenue.
D'Oyly Carte	Funds to support our therapeutic programme.
East End Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support additional equipment and PPE costs to allow our work to continue.
Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Groundwork	Improvements to Shandy Park through removal of tarmac and planting of bulbs and wildflowers, supported by educational events and activities for the community.
Heritage Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support our organisation's survival of the pandemic and allow us to continue working with the community.
Heritage Fund	To hire a Heritage Officer to develop a community-led conservation, management and maintenance plan for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park over 2 years. In doing so, the heritage of THCP will be accessible to a wider range of people.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
London Dock community	Nature based summer programme for young people.
Ocean regeneration	Funds to create a new wildflower meadow in Shandy Park.
Radcliffe Trust	Funds to provide greenwood working courses for disadvantaged communities.
Small grants	Establishing an "Elder Trees" community group for the over 60s for two-hour sessions, once per week (37 in total). Sessions would include activities such as sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, nature crafts, wild foods, planting and bird spotting.
TFL	Finding Your Feet: exploring Mile End, step by step' is a ten-week project designed to encourage inactive and reluctant walkers living in the Mile End neighbourhood – primarily the Ocean Estate, Leopold Estate and East End Homes – to walk more regularly and confidently.
Tower Hill Trust	Funds to support infrastructure and facilities development in the Cemetery Park, supported by training opportunities for partner Grounded Ecotherapy, and volunteering opportunities. Funds for the Wild Homes project, improving habitats and providing training in countryside skills. Funds for grass cutting.
Tree of Hope	Collaboration with Pavement2Catwalk to create a recycled art installation that will represent a tree of hope with the local community.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2022

Veolia	Funds for the improvement of meadow areas of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Scrapyard Meadows and Ackroyd Drive including training opportunities for volunteers.

17 Net assets attributable to funds: current period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	151,517	-	64,583	-	216,100
Current liabilities	(6,545)	-	-	-	(6,545)
Net assets represented by funds	144,972	-	64,583	-	209,555

18 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	137,003	-	97,166	-	234,169
Current liabilities	(28,979)	-	(7,975)	-	(36,954)
Net assets represented by funds	108,024	-	89,191	-	197,215

19 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

20 Post balance sheet events

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

21 Pension commitments

The charity contributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

	2022	2021
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:	£ 1,890	£ 2,151

22 Contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2022 nor at 31 March 2021.

23 Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

24 Transactions with trustees

There were no material transactions with the trustees during the year.

25 Gifts in kind and volunteers

During the year the charitable company benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

26 Major funders

In accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	*Project name / Purpose of*	
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	*Park maintenance and litter picking*	£ 31,900

27 Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

The Soanes Centre
Southern Grove
Mile End, London E3 4PX

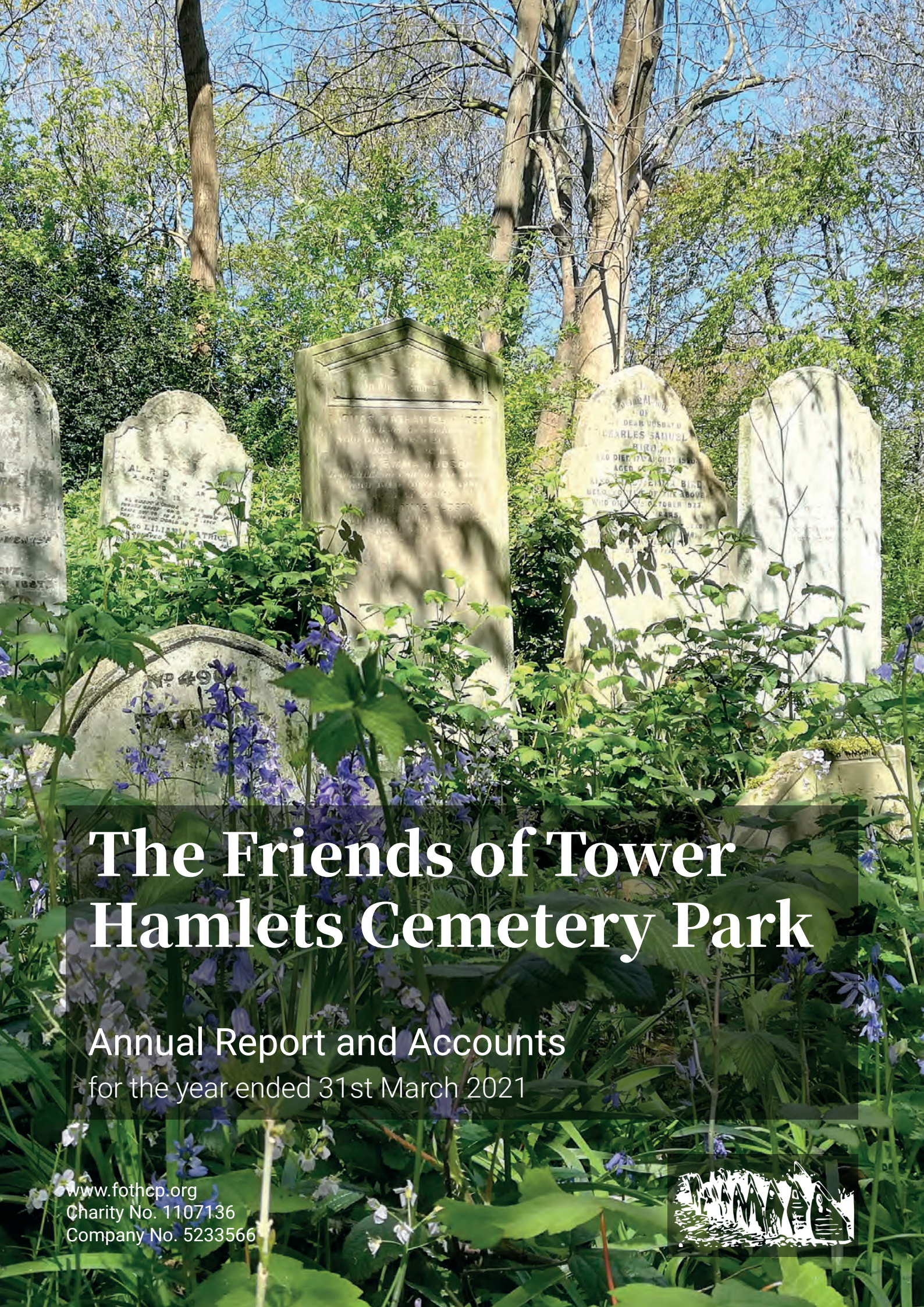
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THE FRIENDS OF TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1107136

Accounts



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31st March 2021

www.fothcp.org
Charity No. 1107136
Company No. 5233566

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LONDON IN BLOOM RESULTS 2020

Large Conservation
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Tower Hamlets Gold

Large Cemetery
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Tower Hamlets Gold

Heritage Park/Garden of the Year
Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Tower Hamlets Silver Gilt

Welcome from the Chair

Like many small charities and community organisations, this last year has been one of unprecedented changes and learning. The start of this reporting year, coincided almost with the start of the first lockdown and the challenges of trying to adapt to new ways of working and a very busy site, and the loss of income from all our planned events. However, staff, trustees, partners and volunteers from the public rallied together to ensure the Cemetery Park and our organisation could survive.

Over the height of lockdown in April-July we started our Cemetery Park Online series of talks on all types of subjects from vegetable growing, grave symbolism and even meeting the local police! We have continued these online talks throughout the year as they have been so popular and allowed people to learn about our work and history from all over the UK and overseas.

We relished the summer and early autumn months as an opportunity to welcome volunteers and events back into the Cemetery Park - all with the correct levels of precautions of course! It was really important to us to be able to reinstate many of our activities safely so that people could enjoy being outdoors again with us. We loved seeing our weekly Tuesday and monthly Sunday volunteer sessions fully booked and to be able to offer Forest Schools for children over the school holidays. We also want to say thank you to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting us financially to be able to put in place all the extra precautions and equipment.

We also welcomed our new Heritage Officer, Claire Slack, in September 2020. It has been a long-term dream of ours to be able to have this role in The Friends and we are thrilled that we have managed to be able to bring Claire on board. Claire will be spending 18 months developing a Conservation Management Plan for the site and planning new activities to support the community to get more involved in the heritage of the Cemetery Park.

The ongoing forecast for many small charities such as ours remains precarious as we enter a second year of restrictions and increased competition for funding. However, we continue to be thankful for the financial and in-kind support we have been given by so many people - we are truly grateful. We have also been supported by several emergency funds to support vital sites such as ours through these difficult times, including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Culture Recovery Fund and East End Community Foundation and Tower Hill Trust. Thank you!

Despite the pandemic, we look back on the last year and can be thankful that we have provided so many people with a place to relax, exercise and meet people during difficult times. We have survived one tricky year but have learnt a lot about what we are capable of as a team and community and are ready to tackle another unusual year.

Fran Humber
Chair of Board of Trustees

Welcome from the Cemetery Park Manager

What a year! It was unlike anything anyone has experienced in recent times. The pandemic certainly brought with it many challenges but we also experienced a great deal of generosity, support and help from our visitors and volunteers. Along with a great deal of work and commitment from the staff team and Trustees, especially Fran Humber, our chairperson.

When the pandemic started and we were told to stay at home, we experienced an almost instant rise in daily use of the Cemetery Park. We also knew that we would experience a massive drop in income.

So, with the support of Fran, the staff team consisting of Michelle Lindson - Community Outreach Coordinator/Nature & Us project manager, Suzanna Maas - Cemetery Park Officer, and I worked collectively to set up a Crowdfunder to ask people to help The Friends survive the pandemic and help us raise £5,000. To date, people have helped us to raise over £30,000. Massive thanks and appreciation to all that have donated.

Working from home was a big adjustment for the Friends. We set up online systems to work collaboratively and switch away from paper; we had to learn new skills and adjust how we spent our time, in particular focussing on fundraising, grant writing and digital communications. As a result we saw a major increase in membership, increased our social media engagement, set up new ways of measuring our impact, saw increased event attendance, and built relationships with new volunteers ready for when we could restart our activities.

We wanted to continue to connect with our supporters so Cemetery Park Online began, welcoming guest speakers and our own staff and volunteers to present. Thanks to all the speakers for being part of Cemetery Park Online.

We also needed to ensure the Cemetery Park remained a safe place to visit, so volunteer Norayne led the charge on litter picking; Dim, the Setpoint Education Manager, supported this and began several months of walking the Cemetery Park daily to check-in with visitors, and help keep the site safe. With the help of Stephen, a nature conservation volunteer, we began doing the seasonal management work where we could.

As the months rolled on Michelle, Suzanna and I worked together to prepare to welcome people back in the summer of 2020. This involved the installation of a new external sink for hand washing and the implementation of a rigid and thorough cleaning system for equipment and tools after activities. August saw the return of practical volunteers and forest school along with the occasional guided walk. Our volunteering sessions, led by Michelle and Suzanna, were fully booked for months!

In September we welcomed Claire Slack, our new Heritage Officer, to lead on the writing of a Conservation Management Plan for the site as well as delivering public events with a heritage theme.

We've had hundreds of comments about the role the Cemetery Park played in helping people deal with the challenges of lockdown. This is one of many similar sounding sentiments we received as comments on our initial Crowdfunder: 'The Park was a lifeline for literally 100s of local people during the lockdown - helping us all to cope'. We're so pleased that the Cemetery Park means so much to so many and holds a special place in people's hearts.

I really am very grateful to the staff, trustees, our network of volunteers who worked remotely and onsite for everything they've done to support The Friends and the Cemetery Park and to keep the Cemetery Park open, clean, safe and welcoming to all. Thank you all very much.

Kenneth Greenway
Cemetery Park Manager



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park offers everyone a breathing space in the heart of East London. This woodland cemetery is a unique place of transformation: a people's cemetery, a sanctuary for humans as well as nature, a place for festivals, field studies and forest schools. Always changing with the seasons it is rooted in the history of ordinary people, a place of rich heritage that is full of possibilities and freedom for all.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is an award-winning local charity working to protect, preserve and care for the Cemetery Park. Founded in 1990, our skilled staff and volunteers across nature and heritage bring energy, knowledge and vision to the shape and future of the site for the benefit of all who use it.

We are the custodians who seek to protect, commemorate and share the history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and maintain and develop it for enjoyment, remembrance and learning for everyone.

We aim to improve London's natural environment; public engagement and understanding of its local history; support local health and wellbeing; and build social cohesion. Each year we provide hundreds of free activities and volunteer opportunities for the benefit of the local community.

OUR MISSION

We work to install an ethos of freedom in the Cemetery Park as a people-centric charity, exploring history, improving mental wellbeing and managing the woodland and meadows in as light a way as possible.

OUR VALUES

GROWTH

We endeavour to ensure that everyone can benefit from the Cemetery Park and have the opportunity to grow as a person.

FREEDOM

We champion the possibilities offered by the Cemetery Park to support learning, nature and heritage.

FRIENDSHIP

We work in friendship with our staff, volunteers and the wider community.

OPENNESS

We feel that the Cemetery Park and charity should be accessible to everyone.



Our impact in 2020-2021

NATURE

We continue to carefully manage the Cemetery Park for the benefit of local biodiversity, in particular insect species and have a growing list of new species found each year. Despite the pandemic, the team have worked to do what they can to keep on top of our management regime that maximises its conservation value. The information below has been generously provided by Mark Patterson (bees), Terry Lyle (butterflies), Edward Milner (spiders and beetles) and Gino Brignoli (new insects).

This year has seen some exciting new insect finds. A first record for the Cemetery Park of a Dewick's Plusia moth (*Macdunnoughia confusa*), a rare migrant to the UK from Europe, as well as a first record for the borough of Rambur's Pied Shieldbug (*Tritomegas sexmaculatus*). It has been a good year for species specialising on dead wood with Wasp Beetles (*Clytus arietis*), Cardinal beetles (*Pyrochroa coccinea*), Hawthorn and Club-horned Wood-borer wasps (*Trypoxylon clavicerum*) being recorded. True bugs (*Hemiptera*) have started being recorded with 19 previously unrecorded species confirmed, so far bringing the site total to 50.

22 butterfly species recorded

BUTTERFLIES

We are proud to have recorded 22 species of butterfly this year. We had several sightings of the Marbled white butterfly (Melanargia galathea). Despite the name, it is part of the "Brown" family, and, like other Browns, the caterpillars eat grasses. Previously there were only 2 reported sightings. The Marbled white, like several other butterflies, is increasing in the London area. It may establish with us, as, since 2013, has its relative the ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*).

BEES

Unfortunately due to the pandemic our usual bee expert was less able to visit during 2020. However, during possible visits the following was noted: *Andrena nitida* (Grey-patched Mining Bee) seemed much more numerous - this species has increased nationally by a fifth in recent years so the trend at the Cemetery Park reflects the national picture. Numbers of *Andrena scotica* (Chocolate mining bee) seemed to have declined compared to previous years. This could simply mean the large nesting aggregations have relocated to other parts of the Cemetery Park, equally with the early warmth they could have been over their peak when assessed. Tawny mining bees (*Andrena fulva*) appeared more numerous than usual, with lots of burrows scattered throughout our site along path edges.

We also saw that other bee spotters recorded notable bee species including the Large Scabious Mining Bee (*Andrena hattorfiana*), the Red-girdled Mining Bee (*Andrena labiata*) and the Clover Blunthorn bee (*Melitta leporina*).

Bumblebees appeared to have had a good year and lots of males and new queens of the 8 common bumblebee species were seen over the summer too including Wool carder bees (*Anthidium manicatum*), Orange-vented Mason bees (*Osmia leaiana*), Patchwork leaf-cutter bee (*Megachile centuncularis*) and Willughby's Leafcutter Bee (*Megachile willughbiella*); as well as 2 species of yellow faced bee.

5 new spider species recorded

SPIDERS & BEETLES

Numbers of species in both groups continue to climb, so that now there is a list of 164 species of spider and 484 species of beetles recorded in the Cemetery Park.

In a 12 month period, 2,695 spiders were collected by various methods and represented 69 species (42%) of the total list. The count of pioneer spider species continues to drop: just 36 specimens this year compared to 44 in 2019; a very good sign of the ecological health of the Cemetery Park.

Five new spiders were found - after 13 years of continuous surveying, it seems extraordinary that new species are still turning up. An adult female Phylloneta sisyphia (*Theridiidae*), a fairly widespread tangle-web spider, was found in a web on tall herbs just outside the Soanes Centre – hiding in plain sight! A male of a second tangle web spider, Robertus lividus, was trapped in the Round Glade, while several new money spiders (*Linyphiidae*) were recorded. A single female *Pocadicnemis pumila* (just four other locations in Middlesex) was trapped in long grass just outside the Soanes Centre, while Mermessus trilobatus was trapped at Lockhart Field in February. Finally, a female Drapetisca socialis, usually found on the trunks of mature oaks, was trapped at Lockhart Field.

10 new species of beetle recorded

The beetle recording has caught up since last year and the present total is now 484 species! Ten new species were recorded during 2020. These were two new ground beetles (*Carabidae*): Amara plebeja and Pterostichus vernalis; one rove beetle (*Staphylinidae*) Sepedophilus marshami; a two-spot ladybird (*Coccinellidae*) Adalia bipunctata; the grey Sailor Beetle Cantharis nigicans (*Cantharidae*); a flower beetle (*Phalacridae*) Olibrus aeneus; a black flea beetle (*Chrysomelidae*) Psylliodes chalcomera; a weevil (*Curculionidae*) Ceutorhymchus turbatus; a false click beetle (*Throscidae*) Trixagus obtusus; and a soft-winged flower beetle (*Melyridae*) Dasytes aeratus.

HEDGEHOGS

We continue to have the only known population of hedgehogs in Tower Hamlets. Spring brought us many Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) sightings, although many were sighted dead. This was not necessarily negative but may indicate a thriving population.

1st record for Dewick's Plusia moth



HERITAGE

In early 2020, we were awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to help us create a Conservation Management Plan that will help us plan for our future. Due to the pandemic, we had to delay the start of this work until September 2020 when we welcomed our new Heritage Officer, Claire Slack.

Since September 2020 she has led the start of our 18 month project to develop our Conservation Management Plan, successfully finding expert consultants (LDA Design) to help with the technical components of the work. The Conservation Management Plan will help us to better understand and conserve both our history and the biodiversity of our site as well as the things our community love best about Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. It will involve our local community, other charities and organisations we work with, heritage and biodiversity professionals and of course our amazing members.

Our long-standing heritage volunteers have continued to meet every second Sunday of the month (often online) and more, led by Diane Kendall, our Heritage Lead trustee, working to research those buried at the Cemetery Park. We were able to participate in Open House 2020, although it was a smaller event than usual. Our heritage themed talks in our Cemetery Park Online series have proven to be particularly popular, and have involved everything from cemetery tourism to the history of boxing in the East End.

Claire, with the support of the wider team, has also been able to start expanding our heritage activities and training since September, which has been very popular and allowed us to add more heritage themed activities to our wide rosta of events and opportunities. You may have already seen the first of these activities like Hands on Heritage volunteering. Despite the pandemic we were able to put on 11 online heritage events, as well as our monthly heritage volunteer sessions, which attracted 716 people. Whilst starting online with an expanded programme of events was certainly a challenge we've also had speakers from across the country who may never usually have been able to share their expertise with us in person. Our online talks have had the added benefit of being able to share our work with people from as far away as Greece, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA.

We have also begun working with community partners such as Walk East and Tower Hamlets U3A to provide online sessions from using our grave maps to discover their own relatives to grave symbolism and Victorian funerals. It has been a pleasure bringing our history and heritage out into the local community even as the community were stuck at home and learning behind their laptop, phone or tablet.

This year we were unable to have our usual ceremony for Remembrance Sunday due to the second lockdown. We realise this was disappointing to those of you who usually attend, but the safety of our community was our highest priority at this difficult time.

Whilst we were not able to welcome the normal crowds, it did not mean that we were unable to remember those who gave their lives to secure and protect our freedom. Many local people visited our memorials and paid their respects and laid a poppy or a wreath in solitary acts of remembrance. The staff also laid wreaths at our war memorials as well as in the area of the Cemetery Park where many soldiers killed in action were buried. We were thrilled that the Venerable Roger Preece was able to record a video for us this year in place of our usual in-person ceremony. The Venerable Roger Preece is a Master of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, a retreat house and community cafe charity in East London.

11
online heritage events with 716 participants



Welcomed our first ever Heritage Officer



Helped people with 144 grave enquiries



Started work on our pivotal Conservation Management Plan



1807
hours by heritage volunteers researching the history of the Cemetery Park

> "It was so nice for them to be able to come together as a group and take part in some really great activities. The students have been talking about it ever since and are super proud of their newly found knowledge of THCP. We had to practically ask them to leave the park at the end as they were having such a nice time."
>
> Project organiser at Friends of the Earth: My World My Home project

Made possible with Heritage Fund



COMMUNITY

COVID-19 RESPONSE

It would be remiss of us to not take a moment to reflect on the support from the community to help us survive the first 12 months of the pandemic. Many members of the public, regular park users, friends of our organisation, trustees and members found time to help keep the Cemetery Park safe and free of litter during some of the busiest times. Others got stuck in and helped to keep on top of some of the plant management and weeding by themselves or in small groups once restrictions allowed. In particular we want to thank Dim, Stephen and Norayne for their monumental efforts and help.

To help replace lost income, we also launched a Crowdfunder appeal in April 2020. We initially set our sights at £5,000 but were overwhelmed with the support and generosity we received and reached over £30,000! These donations have made a huge difference to the stability of The Friends during this period and ensured we could carry on all our vital work. Huge thanks also to Mircea who raised over £1000 by breaking his own walking record around the Cemetery Park.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Cemetery Park Online

To help people get through lockdowns and to find new ways of bringing the Cemetery Park to the community, we started online talks. These have proved very popular and over the last year we have put on 51 talks with 2332 people attending! Topics ranged from birdsong to grave symbolism to butterflies and many more.

Staff, trustees, volunteers and partners all help us to put on such diverse talks, and we were also excited to welcome notable experts such as The Urban Birder (David Lindo), Icy Sedgwick (author and host of the Fabulous Folklore Podcast), and Paul Wood (author of The Street Tree).

OTHER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

This year we delivered 120 events in total despite the pandemic, and welcomed over 2,974 attendees. This not only included our online talks, but also 26 nature conservation and therapeutic gardening sessions for 171 participants in the Cemetery Park, as well as events at Shandy Park and Swedenborg Gardens (see Nature & Us section).

We have continued to expand the diversity of activities we have on offer and aim to ensure they are affordable for all (many remain free or pay by donation only) and can benefit as many people from the local community and our network of partners.

A few highlights of this year included:

- A big increase in people attending community volunteering sessions - they were fully booked for months.



51
online talks
with 2332 people
attending



Over
120
events held
online and in
person



Started our
collaboration
with artists
in residence
Queer Ecologies



171
participants
at nature
conservation
sessions donating
over 684 hours



> **"I think the programme of talks has been fantastic, an amazing variety and very well organised. I moved to Newcastle upon Tyne about 18 months ago and have missed Tower Hamlets a great deal, but the talks have made me feel connected to my heritage and given me something to look forward to in these endless lockdown days. I hope some online talks continue for those of us who can't always get there in person!"**
>
> **Cemetery Park Online attendee**



"A few months before the sessions started my dad died. I found that my grief meant I lacked the energy or motivation to go for walks as I used to do. I was spending a lot of time alone indoors. The sessions threw me a lifeline – they reminded me how much I love walking and how important it is for me to get out and enjoy the local green spaces and the company of others."

Nature & Us event participant, 2020

- A slightly chaotic but hilarious Christmas fundraiser for which our staff and volunteers drew people's pets for a tenner - we raised £3,202.
- Registering for Gift Aid - this meant we could claim Gift Aid on years of donations and membership fees, totalling nearly £6k in this FY, with more to come.
- 116 people joined as new members - a big jump when we started the year with about 230 members.
- An increased awareness of the Cemetery Park and the Friends .

QUEER ECOLOGIES

This year we were excited to welcome Queer Ecologies as our new Artists in Residence. Queer Ecologies is a collaboration between three individuals whose skills and interests span writing, art, performing and gardening, to name but a few.

Queer Ecologies is an intersectional and multi-disciplinary exploration of the queerness of nature; and will be exploring the layers of history, alter-life relations, and community which make up the Cemetery Park's ecology.

NATURE & US

Our Nature & Us work slowed down due to the pandemic, however we were still able to connect with the community in different ways, and we completed and reported on four different grants. We delivered nature and history-based online talks to some of our priority beneficiaries, such as the elderly who were more susceptible to isolation during lockdowns, and partnered with groups such as DeafPlus to put on bespoke talks too.

Once restrictions eased, we were able to complete two projects which had been postponed. First, we reunited with participants in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the final walk of the 'Finding Your Feet' project with Graham Barker (Walk East).

We then reunited with participants in Shandy Park to deliver the final sessions of our 'Our Space Award' project, to plant more flowers in Shandy Park. Everyone was so happy to be back together again planting, and enjoyed lovely feedback from local residents visiting the park.

Our exciting work with the Swedenborg Partnership was also able to continue as meetings went online. As a result, despite the pandemic, lots of physical improvements were made to Swedenborg Gardens, such as a new fence and new lighting being installed, and amazing volunteers doing gardening work to manage the wildflower mound. Michelle also worked with Tower Hamlets Council and the Swedenborg Society to develop a heritage sign based on Emanuel Swedenborg to be put up in the park in the near future.

All of these improvements help to improve the image of Swedenborg Gardens, make people feel safer in the park and improve their use of it. Over the past three years, along with community events in the park, this work has helped change perceptions of the park, and the police and local residents have reported less anti-social behaviour in Swedenborg Gardens as a result.

IMPACT

During this year we have started to follow up more closely on the impact of our work. Although we only have a few results for this year, the results are positive. Over 60% said that our activities made them feel more connected to their local community, 88% said the activity helped to improve their health and wellbeing, 88% said they were now encouraged to visit more heritage sites, and 83% were encouraged to visit greenspaces more often. We look forward to seeing more results next year and to use the feedback to continually improve our work.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continue to be vital to all of the work of The Friends. Because of the pandemic we have not been able to invite larger groups from local organisations to support our work, and have been reliant on our network of local volunteers. Their work has been pivotal in maintaining and enhancing the nature and heritage of the Cemetery Park. At some points it was hard for us to keep up with all the extra hands-on support we received, in particular during the first lockdown, but we estimate over 50 people donated hundreds of hours to keep on top of the litter, habitat management and locking/unlocking gates.

Our community nature conservation volunteering sessions, led by Suzanna and Michelle between August and December, proved to be much more popular than in previous years. Where before Covid we'd only have 1 to 3 participants, we were now fully booked with 7 to 11 people per session.



We also have a team that continued to work behind the scenes. Our heritage research volunteers continued to help people locate their ancestors and research those buried in the Cemetery Park.

We also greatly benefitted from volunteer office support, trustees who led on nature and heritage plans for the Cemetery Park, and dedicated volunteers with expertise in social media, fundraising, marketing and branding. This year we have been particularly grateful for the support of Olivia Chester who helped with designing our newsletters, Mimi Tanimoto and Rahul Hussain for leading on branding updates, Sarah Barber and Mike Stockwell for updating our website, and Greg Wright and Konstantinos Havantas for editing videos.

As ever we are hugely thankful for the thousands of hours our community and volunteers donate to the Cemetery Park and The Friends. We know we say this every year, but this year we really couldn't have managed without your support.

BOW COMMON GASWORKS PETITION

Over the last 18 months we have been working hard to raise awareness of the Bow Common Gasworks development and its potential impact on the Cemetery Park. We launched a petition which reached over 10,000 signatures and were also invited to speak at the LBTH Planning Committee meeting on 19th January 2021. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the Bow Common Gasworks development planning application as resubmitted in July 2020. While we are pleased that the height of certain buildings was reduced, we're still disappointed that the changes have not been as significant as we'd have liked. As part of the planning agreement, the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park have been allocated some financial mitigation. The agreement notes that we are due to receive £375,000 over the course of the development (c. 12 years) to help mitigate against the detrimental impacts of the development.

We will make use of this money to enhance existing habitats and create alternative habitat provision in the Cemetery Park for those species that will be irrevocably harmed. We've also secured a written condition on the development which states that we are to be consulted on any proposed lighting for the gasworks buildings and site. This will allow us to work with St William to reduce the impacts of light pollution on the nocturnal environment of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and its surroundings. We consider this a small win.

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported our campaign and lots of thanks and appreciation to Olivia Chester, who supported Ken in the campaign.



60%
said that our activities made them feel more connected to their local community



83%
were encouraged to visit greenspaces more often



88%
said the activity helped to improve their health and wellbeing



Over
10,000
signatures on our Bow Common Gasworks petition



> **"Thank you for taking the time out to plant with our pupils last week, the children really enjoyed planting bulbs."**
>
> **Teacher, primary school near Shandy Park**



"An ideal session, well-led. Also felt very covid-secure. I've always loved the Cemetery Park and it has really helped my mental wellbeing during this year of lockdown. Don't know what I'd have done without it, and nice to have the chance to give back a little."

Nature volunteer, 2021

OUR PARTNERS

SETPOINT LONDON EAST

The Friends' closest partner in the Cemetery Park continues to be Setpoint London East. Setpoint London East provides hands-on science workshops for thousands of school children and their teachers. We continue to work together closely to support each other's activities, collaborating to ensure the Cemetery Park remains a vibrant learning space for young people. We also thank them for their generous sharing of the Soanes Centre.

GROUNDED ECOTHERAPY / PROVIDENCE ROW HOUSING ASSOCIATION

We continue to have a strong partnership with Grounded Ecotherapy which is one of London's most unique horticultural therapy and wellbeing projects for people that have suffered mental health, substance misuse issues or experience of homelessness. They offer recovery for people and create thriving green spaces from neglected urban environments. We welcome their support in maintaining the Cemetery Park and supporting many of our events and activities.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We would like to thank everyone that has supported our work, including:

London Borough of Tower Hamlets, City of London, Natural History Museum, Harry Roberts Nursery School, Solebay Primary Academy, Morpeth Secondary School, St Paul's Whitechapel C of E Primary School, East End Homes, Ocean Regeneration Trust, Walk East, Lower Regents Coalition, Stepney City Farm, Tower Hamlets Idea Stores, Poplar HARCA, London Gardens Trust, The E1 Community Network, Communities Driving Change, Society Links, Whitechapel Safer Neighbourhood Team, Butterfly Conservation, University College London, Trapped in Zone One, Tower Hamlets Community Volunteer Service, NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commission Group, Tower Hamlets Multi-Faith Forum, St. Mungo's, Swedenborg Society, JTP, Linnean Society, Tower Hamlets U3A, Roman Road Trust, Arnos Vale Cemetery, Abney Park Cemetery, Cemetery Club, East London History Society, Past Search, Fabulous Folklore Podcast, Positive East, ELOP, Friends of the Earth: My World My Home, Tower Hamlets Police, Cemetery Club, Youth Offending Team, Made in Hackney, Forage London & Beyond, Archer & Braun, Tower Hamlets Homes, Splash Arts, Film Office, Pavement 2 Catwalk, E1 Community Gardeners, London Month of the Dead, London Open House, Society of Genealogists, Hestia, Street Link, Women's Environmental Network, Bromley by Bow Centre, Bow Church and East End WI.

VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATIONS & COMPANIES

We would like to thank these volunteering organisations and companies that have given their time and money this year. They continue to help transform the Cemetery Park into one of London's most unique spaces. Thank you to: Benefacto, Benevity, ELBA, Semble, Tower Hamlets CVS, Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets, Volunteering Matters, AXA XL, Bank of England, Barclays, BlackRock, Heineken, Hyperion, Macquarie Group, The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, Santander, Vegware and the Wellcome Trust.

FUNDERS

Thank you to our funders this year including The National Lottery Heritage Fund, including the Culture Recovery Fund and the Heritage Emergency Fund, The Fore Raft Fund, East End Community Foundation, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Isla Foundation, Tower Hill Trust, Assura Community Foundation, Tree of Hope, Postcode Community Trust, Aviva, and Neighbourly.

Made possible with Heritage Fund

People's Postcode Lottery

Postcode Local Trust

assura

DCT

AVIVA Community Fund

East End Community Foundation

The Fore

Tower Hill Trust

neighbourly

The future

We are anxious about the next 12 months given the ongoing uncertainty around the impact of Covid-19 but are excited to be able to continue to help our community recover from the impact of the pandemic, to support our work and the Cemetery Park and to continue with our Conservation Management Plan.

In particular we aim to:

- Continue to expand the diversity of activities we put on, and partners we work with, including more heritage-themed activities.
- Ensure the management of the Cemetery Park is not affected by the pandemic and loss of large volunteer groups.
- Sign a 30 year lease for the Cemetery Park.
- Offer more opportunities for getting involved in the Cemetery Park and our organisation through increased volunteering opportunities.
- Ensure our conservation and management plan is underway to support its future sustainability.
- Finish our work to regenerate and improve Fairfoot Road.
- Rebuild the fallen monuments damaged in storms last year through public and private sector support.
- Find new trustees to join the board to continue to build resilience and skills.
- Manage the ongoing financial impact of Covid-19 and build our financial sustainability.
- Develop a proposal to redesign the civilian war memorial in the Cemetery Park, working with local architects and other interested individuals.
- Engage even more groups and individuals in the Cemetery Park and the work of the Friends to ensure the maximum number of people can benefit from our borough's natural and built heritage.

Statutory Information

Governance and management

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (FoTHCP) is a company limited by guarantee (registered company number 5233566) and is a charity registered in England and Wales (1107136) regulated by the Charity Commission.

It is governed by a Board of Trustees chaired by Frances Humber, defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The company has 340 members whose liability, in the event of the company being wound up, is limited to £1.00 each. Membership of the company is governed in accordance with regulations within our articles as agreed by the trustees.

The day-to-day running of the Charity is the responsibility of the Cemetery Park Manager and the Trustees.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees set the strategic direction and ensure the Charity achieves its objectives. The Trustees oversee governance and are responsible for upholding the Charity's values. The Charity's governance complies with the Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector, and other best practice guidelines published by the Charity Commission.

It has delegated many operational responsibilities for the Charity's activities to the staff and the Trustees provide advice, guidance and support on an ongoing basis. The Board of Trustees is comprised of 11 Trustees as of 30th March 2021 and met four times during the year. It is also supported by a group of trustees and volunteers who support with fundraising, policy updates, research and other organisational activities.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees must comprise at least 2 trustees and are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Elected Trustees serve for a three-year term and are eligible to stand for a second three-year term, after which they must retire for a minimum of one term.

Trustee vacancies are advertised externally unless there are specific skills FoTHCP are looking for. On occasion, the trustees may identify and approach individuals thought to have the right skills and invite their application to the Board. New Trustees are formally appointed at the AGM.

The trustees may appoint Patrons or other honorary post-holders of the Charity. Such post-holders are honorary only and carry no vote or other rights.

RISK MANAGEMENT

FoTHCP's approach to risk management is proactive and integrated into day-to-day working. The charity maintains a register of risks (governance, operational, financial, environmental) and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans. Items from the risk register are reviewed quarterly by the board.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in implementing current and planning future activities. The Trustees have considered this matter and concluded:

That the aims of the FoTHCP continue to be charitable;

- That the aims and the work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need;
- That the benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way and certainly not by ability to pay; and
- That there is no detriment or harm arising from the aims or activities.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served during the reporting period were:

Chair - Frances Humber
Vice Chair - Terry Lyle
Treasurer - Colin Wiseman

Marilyn Baltutis
Helen Conford - resigned September 2020
Diane Kendall
Doreen Kendall
Mike Keith - resigned September 2020
Toby Sibley
Sigrid Werner
Sally Randall
Guy Mitchell - appointed September 2020
Diane Gibb - appointed February 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year amounted to £238,794 (2020: £221,796). There was a slight increase from 2020 due to a number of successful grants to emergency Covid-19 funds as well as our Crowdfunding efforts. This year we had to rely more heavily on grants and individual donations to replace lost income streams from corporate group donations and event income. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £189,511 (2020: £162,662) which has slightly increased due to the addition of a fourth staff member. Expenditure was also kept to a minimum where possible due to unknown likelihood of being able to replace lost income.

Our key concern is to continue to be able to maintain our staff levels, which has increased our visibility across the borough, brought new skills to FoTHCP, and increased awareness of both the Cemetery Park and FoTHCP.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR

The results of the period and financial position of the charity are shown in the financial statements.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows net expenditure for the year of £49,283 and a total of £197,215 being carried forward (of which £108,024 is unrestricted).

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

Fixed assets are set out in Note 9 to the accounts.

RESERVES POLICY

The charity receives a modest Service Level Agreement from London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The rest of the costs of the Cemetery Park are covered by the Friends' fundraising via charitable activities and grants.

The support costs of the Friends are pared to the minimum and the costs of maintaining the site are very carefully managed.
The charity's method of estimating the appropriate level of reserves is aimed at protecting the continuity of the core work. In doing so, the trustees consider: (a) risk to income from grants, voluntary donations and fees in an uncertain financial climate; (b) ability to meet replacement costs of essential equipment; (c) ability to finance immediate opportunity.

The charity aims to maintain unrestricted reserves of up to six months of core costs (staff, overheads that would maintain core activities) and three months of contingency costs (critical activities that can not be stopped).

FoTHCP have calculated a minimum target of £92,045 as follows:

Core operating costs (6 months)	£80,045
Contingency costs (3 months)	£12,000
Total:	**£92,045**

The current unrestricted reserves stand at £108,024 so we are currently meeting our reserve requirement. Given the uncertainty of funding and income in the next financial year, it is likely our reserves will be reduced and not exceed our target within a few months. However, the optimum level of reserves is reviewed on an ongoing basis and at minimum once a year and may increase next year due to additional staff members and increasing operating costs.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that:

- So far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Independent Examiner, Anthony Armstrong FCA of Armstrong & Co, has indicated his willingness to be proposed for reappointment.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Park 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2021.

And signed on behalf of the Trustees by:
Frances Humber
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Fran Humber

Frances Humber
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Charitable company Information

for the year ended 31 March 2021

Status:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The directors of the charity are its trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.
Charity name:	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Company registration number:	5233566 (England & Wales)
Charity registration number:	1107136
Registered office:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Operations address:	The Soanes Centre Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park Southern Grove London E3 4PX
Trustees who held office during the year:	Sigrid Werner Diane Kendall Terry Lyle Doreen Kendall Marilyn Baltutis Mike Keith - Resigned 17 September 2020 Helen Conford - Resigned 17 September 2020 Frances Humber Toby John Sibley Colin George Wiseman Sally Jane Randall Guy Mitchell - Appointed 17 September 2020 Diane Gibb - Appointed 15 January 2021
Chair:	Frances Humber
Vice chair:	Terry Lyle
Independent Examiner:	**Anthony Armstrong FCA** **Armstrong & Co** *Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor* 4a Printing House Yard Hackney Road London E2 7PR
Bankers:	**CAF Bank** 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

I report on the accounts of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 26 to 36.

This report is made solely to the trustees as a body in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My examination has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the trustees as a body, for my examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on pages 22 - 23, the trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the the Charities Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
b) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
c) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination, or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Armstrong FCA, Independent Examiner
of Armstrong & Co
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor

4a Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

Dated: 30 September 2021

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Activities

incorporating the income and expenditure account

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	119,056	66,444	-	185,500	135,025
Charitable activities	4	52,919	-	-	52,919	86,623
Investments	5	83	-	-	83	148
Other income	6	292	-	-	292	-
Total income		**172,350**	**66,444**	**-**	**238,794**	**221,796**
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	142,351	47,160	-	189,511	162,662
Total expenditure		**142,351**	**47,160**	**-**	**189,511**	**162,662**
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		29,999	19,284	-	49,283	59,134
Transfers between funds	17	(796)	796	-	-	
Net movement in funds		**29,203**	**20,080**	**-**	**49,283**	**59,134**
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	13	78,821	69,111	-	147,932	88,798
Total funds carried forward	13	**108,024**	**89,191**	**-**	**197,215**	**147,932**

All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities incorporates an income and expenditure account.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Financial Postion

as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	31 March 2021		31 March 2020	
		£	£	£	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	10	3,167		5,098	
Cash at bank and In hand	11	231,002		164,215	
Total current assets		234,169		169,313	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	36,954		21,381	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			197,215		147,932
Total net assets			197,215		147,932
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	15		89,191		69,111
Unrestricted funds	15		108,024		78,821
Total charity funds	18		197,215		147,932

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Fran Humber

Frances Humber
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 31 to 35 form part of these accounts.

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

(A Charity Company Limited by Guarantee, company number 5233566)

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**1**	66,704	89,422
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		83	148
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		83	148
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		66,787	89,570
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	**2**	164,215	74,645
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**2**	**231,002**	**164,215**

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	2021	2020
	£	£
1) Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	49,283	59,134
Adjustments for:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(83)	(148)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	1,931	25,165
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	15,573	5,274
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	**66,704**	**89,422**

	2021	2020
	£	£
2) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	231,002	164,215
Total cash and cash equivalents	**231,002**	**164,215**

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

a) Applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)'.

b) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102);

c) the Companies Act 2006.

Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the defination of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern

The charity's income is mainly derived from non self-generated sources, such as grants, service level agreements and other governmental or NGO sources. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the likelihood that this support will continue,and accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Income is recognised when the company has a contractual or other right to its receipt, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably. Income with conditions attached to its receipt is recognised when those conditions have been fulfilled.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Charitable expenditure includes those costs expended in fulfilling the charity's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the Trustees. These include grants payable, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs.

- Grants payable are payments made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the charity.
- Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.
- Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Costs are allocated directly to projects where they can be identified as relating solely to that project. Other costs are allocated between the funds based on staff time spent on the fund activities or other appropriate criteria.

Deferred income

Income received which is contractually or otherwise not expendable until a future period is deferred to the period in which it meets the criteria for income recognition.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the funder. Direct and support expenditure which meets these criteria are identified to the fund together with a fair allocation of other costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are funds received which have no restrictions placed on their use and are available as general funds.

Designated Funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Accounting Policies
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment	- 25% on cost
Furniture & fixtures	- 20% on cost

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Incoming resources

The incoming resources and surplus are attributable to the principal activities of the charity.

2 Net incoming resources

	2021	2020
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees - reporting service	1,600	1,440
Independent Examiner's fees - other services	480	480
Trustees' emoluments	-	-

Emoluments include salaries, fees, bonuses, expense allowances and estimated non-cash benefits receivable. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive payment for their services.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations - individuals	26,332	-	26,332	7,378
Crowdfunding	41,390	-	41,390	-
Donations - organisations	3,794	-	3,794	186
Grants	43,900	66,444	110,344	123,237
Hosting - general	3,640	-	3,640	4,224
	119,056	66,444	185,500	135,025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership - individuals	4,808	-	4,808	3,500
LBTH SLA	31,900	-	31,900	31,900
Course Fees	10,867	-	10,867	16,295
Corporate days	5,344	-	5,344	34,928
	52,919	-	52,919	86,623

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Interest received	83	-	83	148
	83	-	83	148

6 Other other income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Other income	292	-	292	-
	292	-	292	-

7 Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Repairs & maintenance	20	594	614	424
Park access devel & maint	2,818	12,661	15,479	14,928
Lodge	8,825	-	8,825	-
Plants	1,120	880	2,000	5,201
Tools & accessories	627	1,288	1,915	2,697
Volunteers - hospitality	55	372	427	950
Events	640	3,526	4,166	8,271
Green waste	-	3,589	3,589	7,056
Teaching materials	-	-	-	476
Biodiversity professionals	2,962	-	2,962	2,962
Publicity - general	675	-	675	1,790
Heritage	(270)	-	(270)	2,358
Staff costs	98,171	21,625	119,796	97,419
Recuitment & training	531	-	531	2,063
Soanes office space	5,000	-	5,000	5,169
Provision for bad debts	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	2,172
Legal and professional fees	8,996	-	8,996	-
Office running costs	10,380	2,625	13,005	5,682
Insurance - other	1,049	-	1,049	983
Interest paid	-	-	-	81
Bank charges	112	-	112	60
Accountancy fees	2,080	-	2,080	1,920
	142,351	47,160	189,511	162,662

8 Staff costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff salaries	109,444	88,728
Staff social security	6,759	5,672
Staff pensions	3,593	3,018
	119,796	97,419
Average number of employees during the year was:	4	3

No remuneration was paid to any Trustee or their associates for services as a trustee during the year ended 31 March 2021 nor to 31 March 2020.

Employees paid in excess of £60,000 during the current year and previous year:	None	None

9 Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture & fixtures	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 1 April 2020	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2021	5,597	727	6,324
Depreciation			
As at 1 April 2020	5,597	727	6,324
As at 31 March 2021	5,597	727	6,324
Net book value			
As at 31 March 2021	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2020	-	-	-

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

10 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating debtors	2,988	1,908
Staff loans	2	3,026
Prepayments	177	164
	3,167	5,098

11 Bank and cash in hand	2021	2020
	£	£
CAF reserve account	224,899	165,831
CAF current account	4,124	(3,870)
PayPal account	1,541	1,955
Petty Cash	438	299
	231,002	164,215

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021	2020
	£	£
PAYE/NIC	14,220	8,664
Pensions	2,151	1,986
Accruals	12,608	2,756
Deferred income	7,975	7,975
	36,954	21,381

13 The funds of the charity: current year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	69,111	66,444	(47,160)	796	89,191
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	78,821	172,350	(142,351)	(796)	108,024
	147,932	238,794	(189,511)	-	197,215

14 The funds of the charity: prior year	Opening balance	Resources arising	Resources utilised	Other movements	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Restricted income funds	25,073	70,866	(17,096)	(9,732)	69,111
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	63,725	150,930	(145,566)	9,732	78,821
	88,798	221,796	(162,662)	-	147,932

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

15 Restricted funds: current period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Cheshire Community	-	5,478	-	-	5,478
East End Emergency	-	1,228	633	-	595
Fairfoot	-	35,000	774	(106)	34,120
Groundwork	4,064	-	4,244	180	-
Heritage Emergency	-	18,600	18,600	-	-
Heritage Fund	49,130	-	17,438	-	31,692
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
London Dock community	-	2,715	-	-	2,715
Small grants	5,000	-	2,020	-	2,980
TFL	4,910	-	306	-	4,604
Tower Hill Trust	1,980	-	-	-	1,980
Tree of Hope	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Veolia	999	1,423	3,144	722	-
	69,111	66,444	47,160	796	89,191

16 Restricted funds: prior period	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers & gains/(losses)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Groundwork	-	7,236	3,172	-	4,064
Heritage Fund	-	49,450	320	-	49,130
Heritage Lottery Fund	3,028	-	-	-	3,028
Small grants	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
TFL	-	4,910	-	-	4,910
Tower Hill Trust	4,041	-	2,061	-	1,980
Veolia	18,004	4,270	11,543	(9,732)	999
	25,073	70,866	17,096	(9,732)	69,111

Restricted funds (continued)

Projects financed by restricted funds are supported by unrestricted funding where necessary. This occurs where the funding is in arrears or the incidence of expenditure on the project occurs disproportionately at the beginning of the project compared to the income flows. Where restricted projects end the year with a deficit, this is met by after year-end restricted income or transfers from unrestricted funds.

Cheshire Community	To care and improve Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and other vital greenspaces in the borough to improve local health and wellbeing, the local environment, understanding of the area's history and community cohesion, through twice monthly nature-based sessions such as therapeutic gardening and nature walks.
East End Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support additional equipment and PPE costs to allow our work to continue.
Fairfoot	Improving Fairfoot Road greenspace for the local community and biodiversity.
Groundwork	Improvements to Shandy Park through removal of tarmac and planting of bulbs and wildflowers, supported by educational events and activities for the community.
Heritage Emergency	Covid emergency funding to support our organisation's survival of the pandemic and allow us to continue working with the community.
Heritage Fund	To hire a Heritage Officer to develop a community-led conservation, management and maintenance plan for Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park over 2 years. In doing so, the heritage of THCP will be accessible to a wider range of people.
Heritage Lottery Fund	Funds to support research into the lives of the 204 service personnel who lost their lives during World War One and are recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Memorial inside the Park.
London Dock community	Nature based summer programme for young people.
Small grants	Establishing an "Elder Trees" community group for the over 60s for two-hour sessions, once per week (37 in total). Sessions would include activities such as sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, nature crafts, wild foods, planting and bird spotting.

TFL	Finding Your Feet: exploring Mile End, step by step' is a ten-week project designed to encourage inactive and reluctant walkers living in the Mile End neighbourhood – primarily the Ocean Estate, Leopold Estate and East End Homes – to walk more regularly and confidently.
Tower Hill Trust	Funds to support infrastructure and facilities development in the Cemetery Park, supported by training opportunities for partner Grounded Ecotherapy, and volunteering opportunities. Funds for the Wild Homes project, improving habitats and providing training in countryside skills. Funds for grass cutting.
Tree of Hope	Collaboration with Pavement2Catwalk to create a recycled art installation that will represent a tree of hope with the local community.
Veolia	Funds for the improvement of meadow areas of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Scrapyard Meadows and Ackroyd Drive including training opportunities for volunteers.

17 Transfers between funds: current period

	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
Restricted to general	(796)		796		-
	(796)	-	796	-	-

18 Net assets attributable to funds: current period

	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	137,003	-	97,166	-	234,169
Current liabilities	(28,979)	-	(7,975)	-	(36,954)
Net assets represented by funds	108,024	-	89,191	-	197,215

19 Net assets attributable to funds: prior period

	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
		£	£	£	£
Current assets	100,202	-	69,111	-	169,313
Current liabilities	(21,381)	-	-	-	(21,381)
Net assets represented by funds	78,821	-	69,111	-	147,932

20 Taxation

The company is a registered charity. Accordingly, it is exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

21 Post balance sheet events

There were no significant post balance sheet events.

22 Pension commitments

The charity contributes to employees defined contribution stakeholder pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

		2021		2020
The unpaid contributions outstanding at the year end were:	£	2,151	£	1,986

23 Contingent liabilities

The charitable company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 March 2021 nor at 31 March 2020.

24 Related parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

25 Transactions with trustees

There were no material transactions with the trustees during the year.

26 Gifts in kind and volunteers

During the year the charitable company benefited from unpaid work performed by volunteers.

27 Major funders

In accordance with Section 37 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the following grants and their purpose is confirmed:

Funder	***Project name / Purpose of***	
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	*Park maintenance and litter picking*	£ 31,900

28 Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The guarantors liability in the event the company is wound up is restricted to a maximum of £1 each.



"This space became such an important one for me during this pandemic year."

Samayakula Women's Community in Bethnal Green, 16th December 2020

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
The Soanes Centre
Southern Grove
Mile End, London E3 4PX

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